



Princess Michael of Kent, aged 37, has had an operation in the King Edward VII Hospital for Officers, in London, to remove her gall bladder. Kensington Palace announced. Her condition last night was satisfactory.

## £1,750m offered for Amersham

Almost £1,750m has been offered for the Government's issue of shares in Amersham International, making it 24.5 times oversubscribed.

Employees have taken 1.3 million shares. The degree of oversubscription has raised strong criticism of the Government's decision to put the shares on offer at £7.1m instead of at tender.

## 'No compromise' on The Times

Mr Rupert Murdoch, chairman of Times Newspapers, said last night that there could be no compromise over the management's demands for more than 600 redundancies at *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*. He would close the newspapers on Monday unless agreement was reached with the trade unions.

Negotiations between the management and unions are expected to continue through the weekend.

## Spanish coup trial clash

Two Spanish generals accused of leading last year's attempted coup contradicted each other when their trial opened before a military tribunal. One said he was acting on the other's orders, the other denied involvement.

## Bomb injures former soldier

A former member of the Ulster Defence Regiment lost both legs and was very seriously ill in Craigavon Hospital last night after his booby-trapped car exploded in the grounds of St Luke's Psychiatric Hospital, Armagh. The man, aged 59, and married, left the regiment two months ago.

## Students told to borrow

Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, advised students who tackled him at Carlisle to borrow money from their parents or a bank or take part-time jobs to help complete their education.

## Poles pay up

Poland has now paid nearly all the interest and capital on its loans overdue from 1981, the main stumbling block to rescheduling \$2,400m of further borrowings.

## Bathgate vote

BL workers at the Scottish truck plant followed their Lancashire workmates in calling off the four-week strike over redundancies. One of the Bathgate stewards accused the men back to work by the closure threat.

## Irish hopes

Ireland attempt to win rugby union's Triple Crown for the first time in 33 years at Lansdowne Road, against Scotland, today. In Paris, England meet France.

## Gone Fishing

"The missing fishing rods, not the election campaign, seemed to be the more serious loss to all of us as we discussed important matters by the tumbling waters of the Pennsylvania Creek."

Jimmy Carter's fly-fishing diary, page 6

Leader page, 7

Letters: On Israel and Syria, from the Israeli Ambassador; on ancient monuments, from Professor Martin Biddle and others; Atlantic alliance; De Lorean; Breaking into jail.

Features, page 6

The nuclear threat to Hardy country; Gwynn von Paczensky cuts out in Scotland and finds a grouse or two;

Obituary, page 8

Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Cazalet; Mr Stanley Crowe.

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## Optimism on Belfast car jobs

# Five-week fight for survival at De Lorean

From David Hewson and Hugh Noyes in London and Nicholas Timmins in Belfast

Mr John De Lorean's career as a United Kingdom sports car manufacturer ended yesterday with the receivership of his Belfast-based firm.

The state, which had already provided £20m of aid to the three-year-old company, could be asked to give no more, Mr James Prior, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said.

Sir Kenneth Cork, one of the receivers appointed to the company, gave the firm five weeks to raise between £40m and £50m. He was optimistic that support could be found and had no immediate plans to lay off any of the 1,500 workforce.

Mr De Lorean left for New York shortly before Mr Prior announced the failure and management and marketing mistakes made over the sales estimates for the car.

A statement from Mr De Lorean said the firm had made nearly US \$6m profit in the three months to the end of last August, and an operating profit of about US \$4m in the last quarter of last year.

The statement compared the crash to the restructuring of Rolls Royce, and said that the firm's sports car had achieved United States sales figures in six months which it had taken competitors up to 17 years to achieve.

Mr De Lorean said in New York last night: "My conscience is very, very clear."

He felt no personal sense of loss. "What you have to say in life is that, if you have given it your best shot, you have accomplished all you can. We have made an important contribution where the world really needed it."

The crisis produced an unexpected measure of accord in the Commons when Mr Prior announced his decision. With much of the support for the firm's continued existence coming from Midland MPs, it demonstrated that its total collapse, which could affect thousands of jobs in mainland Britain, was a matter of national concern.

Mr De Lorean had been hoping for a last-minute cash injection from the West Coast of America, but when that help did not materialize, he had no alternative but to appoint Sir Kenneth and Mr Paul Shewell as receivers.

Mr Prior said it would be entirely wrong for him to indicate that further Government

money would be forthcoming. However, both he and the receivers hoped that a restructuring of the business might be possible, so he had agreed to the withdrawal of certain guarantees from the American parent company to the Belfast manufacturing company. Mr Prior explained that this would enable the companies to continue to trade.

Mr Prior felt it was far too ambitious to talk in terms of 18,000 to 20,000 car sales a year, as De Lorean originally had. A figure of 8,500 to 9,000 was more realistic, Mr Prior said he could give no assurance to creditors. They would have to take their risks.

Sir Kenneth Cork said he intended to continue short-time working, producing about 140 cars a week for the time being. He believed there was a market for the cars and said there was considerable interest from financiers who had returned to the United States. He felt there was a good chance that money would be forthcoming, and said Mr De Lorean could regain control if he could raise the money.

He denied that the Government would write off £70m debt.

The receivership may still lead to job losses in the company's 200-plus suppliers, some of whom are owed tens of thousands of pounds by the old company. Up to 1,000 jobs in Northern Ireland and several times that number in mainland suppliers such as British Steel, GKN, Lucas, and International Diagnostics depend on De Lorean.

Under reaction to the move was mixed. Mr George Clarke of the Transport and General Workers' Union, which has 500 members at the plant, said he was disappointed and angry that the firm had not offered any new money.

Mr De Lorean had created a new factory and car jobs from nothing, providing 7,000 jobs in Northern Ireland and elsewhere.

Sir John Freeman, the union's Northern Ireland secretary, said: "The decision has to be welcomed, as it is the only way forward. We believe Sir Kenneth Cork can do with De Lorean what he has done with other companies and that is, to make them successful."

Rocky road to the precipice, page 3

Leading article, page 7

## Go-ahead for private telecom network

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

The Mercury private telecommunications consortium, headed by Cable and Wireless, has accepted the licence offered by the Government to run a network in competition with British Telecom.

The decision is the result of a meeting on Thursday of the consortium, whose other members are BP and Barclays Merchant Bank. A statement is to be made by the Government next week.

A management team is expected to be appointed within the next week and a new business plan is likely to be developed as a result of British Telecom's announcement that it proposes to offer high-speed telecommunication circuits to business users in the cities linked by the Mercury network.

The acceptance of the licence comes after about three months of negotiations between the consortium, British Telecom, and the Department of Industry.

Mercury's proposed network will involve the laying of 800 miles of fibre optic cable linking the main business centres in Britain at a cost of £50m. The network is expected to be operational within 18 months.

The protracted negotiations since the Government gave the consortium a letter of intent in November have covered the methods by which the Mercury system will interconnect with the British Telecom network.

Mercury will have its own satellite earth station for connection to international circuits. The technical arrangements for Mercury to interconnect with the British Telecom network have been completed but some of the commercial details have yet to be concluded. It is expected that the consortium will pay royalties in some instances to British Telecom.

British Telecom said last year that the granting of a licence would mean a rise in telephone charges for residential users because Mercury would cream off a large amount of the corporation's lucrative business traffic.

British Telecom has 15 million residential subscribers. Quicksilver service, page 15

## Journalist cleared of contempt

By Frances Gibb

A journalist who refused to reveal the source of evidence which led to an exposure of illegality and corruption at Ladbroke's casinos and the loss of the group's licences was found not guilty of contempt of court yesterday.

Two High Court judges ruled that Jack Lundin, a journalist with *The Observer*, was not obliged to reveal the name of the source because the answer was not necessary to the interests of justice and could have served no useful purpose in the criminal proceedings then taking place.

Lord Justice Watkins, sitting with Mr Justice Glidewell, ordered the Attorney General, who had sought an order for Mr Lundin's commitment to bear the costs and refused him leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

It is believed to be the first occasion on which a journalist who has refused to reveal his sources, a fundamental journalistic ethic, has not been found guilty of contempt upon prosecution.

After the case Mr Lundin said the proceedings against him had arisen because the

## Striking rail guards jeer union chief

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

Rumblings of discontent on the railways over the controversial issue of flexible rostering continued yesterday when several hundred guards in London and the South-east staged a unofficial 24-hour walk out in protest at the decision of the union, the National Union of Railwaymen, to sign a new rostering agreement.

About 200 of the guards marched on their union's headquarters in London and jeered and booed Mr Sidney Weighall, the union's general secretary, when he explained that the flexible rostering agreement would improve their conditions of work.

The protest was taking place as the two railwaymen, who caused a storm last month by claiming in *The Sun* that train drivers were involved in fiddles and often drank on duty, were dismissed by British Rail, after a disciplinary hearing.

A management statement, after the hearing at Clapham Junction station in south London, said that they were found to have broken BR rules and were dismissed "as a result of admissions of malpractice reported in *The Sun* newspaper and subsequently repeated elsewhere."

The two men, Mr Geoffrey Leighton, aged 23, of Southampton, and Mr Max Wallace, 30, of Exeter, near Southampton, faced various charges including drinking on duty, switching turns of duty and being absent from shifts.

The most serious charge against Mr Wallace was that he had assumed control of a packed rush hour train from Basingstoke to Waterloo and drove at speeds of up to 100 mph when the speed limit was 50 mph and while he was still asleep.

Both men said they intended to appeal against the dismissals. Mr Leighton said he was "absolutely disgusted. It goes on all over the railways," Mr Wallace believed that they had

## Kumba the gorilla: eating into London Zoo's £1m



Feeding gorillas Kumba, left, and Salome costs London Zoo about £10 a week each, yet their diet is comparatively cheap. Elephants consume more than £60-worth of food each week; a polar bear's menu averages £55. Food costs account for 10 per cent of annual expenditure at the zoo, which reported a deficit of £550,000 for 1980. This week the Government announced a £1m emergency cash grant for the zoo

## Haughey scents victory in close poll

From Richard Ford, Dublin

The outcome of the Irish general election was still tantalisingly close last night. After six hours of results the opposition Fianna Fail predicted that they would form the next government, but the prospect of another hung Dail could not be dismissed.

It was not certain that the opposition would have an overall majority, or even a comfortable one, though their number in the 26th Dail seems certain to be less than the eight they had at the dissolution.

The provisional Sinn Féin, the political wing of the IRA, were doing badly and Mrs Bernadette McAliskey failed in her attempt to make a political comeback south of the border.

Both the main party leaders scored major personal triumphs. Mr Charles Haughey, the Prime Minister, being elected in his Dublin South-east constituency, with 12,644 first preference votes. Across the city, his rival Mr Michael O'Leary, standing in Dublin Central, was well fighting to hold his seat.

With an early swing to Fianna Fail of between one to three per cent, Mr Haughey said he was confident of victory. "I believe we are going to form the next government with an overall majority," he said. But he refused to discuss the size of the majority, and added: "Our intention is to govern the country, we will win."

The mood in the Prime Minister's camp was said to be gloomy. Earlier, during the campaign, Dr Fitzgerald had said he did not think there would be a uniform swing across the country, and last night's results bore that out.

Mr O'Leary, who had been in the margins that mattered, Westford, Shigo-Lehrin, Meath and Kildare, Fianna Fail had an advantage.

Despite Mr Haughey's confidence, if he fails to win with a convincing majority criticism of his leadership are sure to surface.

## How Haig voiced his opinion of Carrington in army language

From Nicholas Hirst, Washington, Feb 19

Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, in a private meeting with his staff called Lord Carrington a "duplicitous bastard" over the Foreign Secretary's handling of arrangements for the Sinai peace-keeping force.

The comment is contained in a series of notes of staff meetings published in the *Washington Post* today which show Mr Haig to be far more candid about the future of Egyptian-Israeli relations than his public statements have suggested.

Taken by an unexpected participant at the staff meetings and checked with two others, the notes are likely to cause intense embarrassment in the political and diplomatic circles. They show a forceful, candid and sometimes crude Secretary of State.

The comments on Lord Carrington were made on October 15 during a discussion on the Sinai force, which the American is trying to persuade their allies to join.

The British, apparently, were claiming that they were under Saudi Arabian pressure to stay out of the multinational force. Mr Haig did not believe it, and made the "duplicitous bastard" remark.

The notes have Mr Haig saying: "European friends just plain cowardly. British

## Child has no right to sue for its birth

By Annabel Ferriman

A child cannot sue a health authority or a doctor for allowing it to be born, the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday.

Mary McKay, aged six, who was born partly blind and deaf after being infected with rubella (German measles) while in the womb, was suing Essex Area Health Authority and Dr Gower Davies, of Basildon, Essex, for not advising her mother to have an abortion.

Her mother, Mrs Jacinta McKay, from Woodford, Essex, suspected when pregnant that she had been exposed to rubella and asked for blood tests. It is alleged that both Dr Davies, her doctor, and the health authority failed to carry out the correct tests and told her it was in order to maintain the pregnancy.

Mrs McKay is suing Dr Davies for allegedly not treating the rubella when she had it, which would have limited the damage, and allegedly failing to inform her she had rubella, after she had provided two blood samples.

Mrs McKay, who says she would have had an abortion had she been told, is also suing the health authority for allegedly not carrying out the correct tests. Those claims were not heard yesterday.

The case being considered was an additional claim being brought by Mary McKay through her father, Mr Michael William Davis, that the duty Dr Davies owed her when she was in the womb involved advising her mother of the desirability of an abortion, which advice her mother would have accepted.

The "unique to the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth" she claims she has suffered damage by "entry into a life in which injuries are highly debilitating". She is bringing the same case against Essex Area Health Authority.

The claim was struck out on February 17 last year by Master Bickford-Smith, but his decision was reversed four months later by Mr Justice Lawson. Yesterday Dr Davies and the Essex Area Health Authority appealed against his decision.

Lord Justice Stephenson, sitting with Lord Justice Ackner and Lord Justice Griffiths, allowed the appeal, saying that a child could not sue for having been born. She could have been legally aborted, but there was no obligation or duty on the doctor to abort.

If a child could sue a health authority or a doctor for allowing it to be born handicapped, it would imply that it has a right to be born whole, or not to be born unless it can be born perfect or "normal", whatever that may mean.

The defendants were refused leave to appeal to the House of Lords but said they would consider asking the Lords for permission.

Law report, page 21

### INCURABLE? -Yes.

### UNHAPPY? -No.

The British Home and Hospital for Incurables specialises in looking after men and women suffering from progressive paralytic diseases. They need very special care and attention. Some are helpless, bedridden... these unlucky ones have to be nursed, really cared for, with compassion, courtesy and patience. The BHHI receives no State aid. We must rely upon your generosity for a very worthy cause, in this special year for the disabled.

More than a hospital - much more than a Home

## BHHI

The British Home & Hospital for Incurables  
Crown Lane, Streatham, London SW18 3JB

PATRON: HM QUEEN ELIZABETH, THE QUEEN MOTHER

## NEWS IN SUMMARY

## Cut of £2m in police budget

West Midlands police are to lose £2m from their budget of £115m, the controlling Labour group of the West Midlands Metropolitan Council decided last night (Peter Evans writes). The cut is proportionately less than the reduction to be made in other services.

Mr Edwin Shore, chairman of the West Midlands Police Authority, last night blamed "the ridiculous financial restrictions" placed in the West Midlands by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment.

The reduction is despite a last-minute attempt by Mr Heseltine to make more money available to provincial police forces.

The Department of the Environment has said that £13m cut from the estimated budget of the Metropolitan Police in London will be made available to provincial forces but Mr Shore said last night that the share available for West Midlands would be "crumbs".

## Girl cadet dies in river accident

A schoolgirl Army cadet died last night and a boy was critically ill in Medway Hospital, Gillingham, after an accident on the River Medway, in Kent, when she lost control of a motor boat carrying 200 yards off Upnor, near Rochester, with 12 cadets, boys and girls, on board.

The dead girl was last night named as Nicola Fan, aged 15, of Blenheim Road, Gillingham. The boy was Deepesh Patel, aged 14, of Norbury Hill, south London. All 12 cadets came from Aynsley School in Dulwich, south London.

## A Van Dyck for death duty

The Government has accepted The Betrayal of Christ by Van Dyck, at a net cost of £20,000, as a memorial to Lord Methuen, who died in 1975.

The large-scale religious work, painted early in Van Dyck's career, is estimated to be worth about £125,000 and was offered to the Government on condition that it remained at Corsham Court, near Bath, which houses one of the country's most distinguished private art collections.

## Eight held after animal protest

Protesters opposed to a new drugs laboratory chained themselves to railings outside Cambridge University's Veterinary School yesterday. Police used bolt cutters to free them and said later that eight people were being questioned.

Parke Davies, the American pharmaceutical company, said the £1.5m laboratory is to be built on university land in the next two years, would use animals for experiments to find cures for crippling illnesses.

## Battered baby man cleared

Mr Richard Davis, aged 34, the social worker at the centre of a storm over the death of a battered baby, Jason Caesar, aged 19 months, has been cleared by Cambridgeshire social services committee.

The committee spent more than 20 hours in secret session studying the case.

## Schools plan rejected

Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education, has rejected plans by the Conservative-controlled London borough of Croydon to replace its 19 secondary schools with eight schools for pupils aged 11 to 16 and a new tertiary college.

## Hattersley plans elected London police authority

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The next Labour government would set up a new, elected London police authority with the same powers as those now exercised by provincial authorities, Mr Roy Hattersley, the shadow Home Secretary, said last night.

That would end the traditional role of the Home Secretary as police authority for the capital which he called "a fiction".

In an important statement of Labour's attitude to the police, Mr Hattersley gave no details of any proposals for the composition of the authority, but he remarked: "I am absolutely certain that, had the Metropolitan Police been influenced over the last 10 years by elected representatives from all or any of the parties, many of the mistakes would have been avoided and the reputation of the Metropolitan Police would stand far higher than it stands today. It would have been closer to the people."

Mr Hattersley, speaking in south Gloucestershire, set out new proposals to make the police more accountable to the public and committed Labour to setting up a national prosecutor's service, under the control of the Lord Chancellor, and to reforming the police complaints procedure.

The relationship between police and people had deteriorated significantly in the last decade, Mr Hattersley said. The Labour Party had a strong vested interest in creating and maintaining a peaceful society.

"In a very real sense we must become a law and order party," he said.

Although he did not want constant interference in the day-to-day operation of the police, there should be new police authorities responsible for police policy. They would be composed solely of elected representatives of the area who took decisions on the nature of policing in their districts, "whether the policeman is on foot or in a car, whether the force is organized for a quick response to isolated incidents or the constant involvement in the life of the community, and where the greatest efforts of the police force should be concentrated".

## Rocky road that led De Lorean to the precipice

The rise and fall of the De Lorean Motor Company has been as spectacular as that of the gullwing doors on the company's 120 mph stainless steel sports car. In three and a half years the company has gone from a greenfield site in Dunmurry, south Belfast, to production of 18,000 cars a year, to the present crisis and the hope of small-scale continuing production.

It was August, 1978, when a jubilant Mr Roy Mason, then Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, announced a £53m package of government investment and aid that took De Lorean to the 56-acre Dunmurry site rather than to Puerto Rico, the Irish Republic or one of several other European countries.

Mr John De Lorean, founder of the company, said the plan would "from plant to production within 18 months" with 20,000 cars in the first full year and 30,000 in the second. The aim was to sell the two-seater car at \$14,000.

Orders for 30,000 cars were said to be in the pipeline, thanks to a network of United States dealers who had to buy \$25,000 of De Lorean stock and themselves invest in the company. Mr De Lorean said of later selling the cars in Europe and the Middle East.

## Management mistakes in car chief's downfall

## ULSTER

Explaining that it had been a difficult decision, Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, outlined his reasons for rejecting the plan to build a new car plant in the Commons how De Lorean Cars Limited of Belfast had gone into receivership and that formal steps to appoint a liquidator had been taken. Mr Prior said that the company had been taken by the Department of Commerce. There was no question of further public money for the company.

As for the future, he said in reply to the Rev Ian Paisley (North Antrim, Dem U) that the Government was not in a position to instruct the receiver but Sir Kenneth Cork had said: "I have every confidence that the receiver will do everything possible through a reconstruction of the business to maintain in Belfast the operation of manufacturing De Lorean motor cars."

That is our wish (Mr Prior went on) and our intention as well but it will have to be done by the receiver. That is why it is so important that nothing should be said which in any way makes the task of Sir Kenneth Cork more difficult. Unsold cars should be sold at the proper price because that was the way in which creditors like those in the West Midlands and elsewhere would receive the dividend. Therefore nothing should be done to knock the car, let alone the future of the company.

Mr Prior said no one should underestimate the suffering the Northern Ireland economy was experiencing with 20 per cent unemployment and more than 40 per cent male unemployment in many areas.

If we did not have the problem of security and violence for other reasons (he said), we would be getting close to it now for economic reasons. There was talk in Belfast of political advance and political stability and better security in Northern Ireland. It would be difficult to attract the sort of industry that is going to survive and prosper.

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community, and where the greatest efforts of the police force should be concentrated". Mr Hattersley said that at present there was constant argument about what powers police committees possessed. Chief police officers would say that they were responsible to the law of the land, but for most decisions they were answerable to no one.

There should be a new Police Act which would describe where powers lay and give real powers to the police committee: "Men who enjoy the power and authority of chief police officers ought to have their rights and responsibilities clearly set out in statute," Mr Hattersley said.

He added that last summer, after Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, had announced that he was making supplies of CS gas and rubber bullets and armoured vehicles available to forces who wanted them, someone had to take a decision on whether individual forces availed themselves of the offer.

That decision concerns the nature of policing in the area, the whole relationship between police and public and the future character of the area itself. It seems to me intolerable that such a fundamental decision should be taken by one man who is in reality answerable to no one.

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## Bathgate workers vote to end BL truck strike

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

BL workers at Bathgate, West Lothian, yesterday followed their colleagues at Leyland, Lancashire, and agreed to end the four-week strike that brought the company's truck and bus operation to the brink of closure.

Both factories decided to return to work against shop stewards' recommendations and the votes were surrounded by an atmosphere of fear, bitterness and recrimination.

The 12,000 strikers were clearly influenced by the company's warnings that if the stoppage continued the BL board would discuss closing the divisions.

Mr James Swan, chairman of the Bathgate stewards, said: "I think our members were frightened back to work. There were angry scenes at Leyland on Thursday when many of the people at the meeting disagreed with the company's view that the vote had been in favour of continuing the strike. The decision was reversed later and the men are

to return to work on Monday.

Leyland management wants to restructure its commercial vehicle activities and shed 4,100 jobs. Last week it rejected an alternative strategy compiled by union officials which, the company said, would have involved a £600m investment over the next five years.

The BL corporate plan for trucks involves 1,365 redundancies at Bathgate, which is to become Leyland's primary engine-making facility, 1,855 at Leyland, 140 at the Albion works near Glasgow and 740 at Guy Motors in Wolverhampton, which is to be closed.

The workers' protest over the company's plan to close the Leyland works ended at 11 am. Mr Michael Edwards, the BL chairman, said the company would be in a position to make a decision on the future of the Leyland works by the end of the month.

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## Theatre cancels ballet

By Christopher Warman, Arts Correspondent

The first programme of the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet season at Sadler's Wells Theatre, in London, from February 23 to 25, has been cancelled because of the continuing dispute involving musicians in the ballet orchestra, the Royal Opera House announced last night.

The dispute has already caused the cancellation of the ballet's tour to Glasgow, Leeds and Stratford-on-Avon, and last-minute efforts between the Royal Opera House and the Musicians' Union failed to resolve it in time for the opening of the ballet's two-week season due to start on Tuesday.

The dispute is over the musicians' claims for retainer payments when the ballet goes on tour without the orchestra. A further announcement will be made early next week about the next programme in the season, due to begin on Friday.

## Rust-proof dream car caught in recession

## Rocky road that led De Lorean to the precipice

From Nicholas Timmins, Belfast



Dream machine: The car on which so many hopes rested

sell an untold number of cars as a business operating on a gullwing door. In Northern Ireland it was seen as providing a crucial 2,000 jobs near the depressed Rottan Catholic areas of west Belfast, where unemployment was more than 35 per cent and higher still among the young.

Le Lorean hit some of his ambitious targets ahead of schedule. But in other respects things rapidly went wrong. Although the first car came off the production line in January, 1981, after intensive engineering work by the British sports car company,

## PARLIAMENT February 19 1982

## Management mistakes in car chief's downfall

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In his statement, Mr Prior said that the company had been taken by the Department of Commerce. There was no question of further public money for the company.

As for the future, he said in reply to the Rev Ian Paisley (North Antrim, Dem U) that the Government was not in a position to instruct the receiver but Sir Kenneth Cork had said: "I have every confidence that the receiver will do everything possible through a reconstruction of the business to maintain in Belfast the operation of manufacturing De Lorean motor cars."

That is our wish (Mr Prior went on) and our intention as well but it will have to be done by the receiver. That is why it is so important that nothing should be said which in any way makes the task of Sir Kenneth Cork more difficult. Unsold cars should be sold at the proper price because that was the way in which creditors like those in the West Midlands and elsewhere would receive the dividend. Therefore nothing should be done to knock the car, let alone the future of the company.

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## Dog warden scheme is blocked

## ENVIRONMENT

A Bill proposing the establishment of a national dog warden scheme was killed by a motion to amend it after a vote in the House of Commons last night. The Bill's sponsor, Mr Jack Aspinwall (Kingswood, C), indicated that the Bill was particularly directed at stray dogs which caused accidents, worried livestock and fouled parks and beaches, said it would be more economically viable for local authorities to introduce dog wardens who would be responsible for the collection of stray dogs and educating the public in responsible pet ownership.

Mr Thomas Cox (Wandsworth, Lab) said dog wardens were not a new idea. The Bill involved major changes in the regime for dogs. The Government was unable to give dog wardens already had substantial powers.

The debate was adjourned.

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## New talks likely on future of 'Times'

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By David Felton, Labour Reporter

Mr Rupert Murdoch, chairman of Times Newspapers Limited (TNL), is expected to meet national officials of the printing unions tomorrow, 24 hours before the company board is to decide whether to sanction the closure of The Times and The Sunday Times.

Negotiations with unions have been continuing at chapel (office branch) level, but News International, the parent company, gave a warning last night that the state of the talks could be described "only as extremely grave".

It is thought that so far fewer than a hundred employees have volunteered for redundancy, compared with the 600 sought.

Mr Murdoch last night repeated that he intended to close The Times and The Sunday Times on Monday unless agreement was reached on redundancies. "Monday is the crunch day," he said.

Speaking at Heathrow airport on his arrival from the United States, he said: "There can be no compromise. We have said we want more than 600 redundancies and the loss of several hundred single shift workers. These figures cannot be changed."

Asked if he had no responsibility to keep open The Times, Mr Murdoch said: "I have more than met my responsibilities to many, many millions of pounds. If The Times has to close down, the Government will have to consider the impact on the country. If the papers are closed, there are no plans to reopen them. We would hope to keep the titles, but if no agreement is reached by Monday it will be the end."

He added: "I feel I have been betrayed." While the union agreements on manning terms made a year ago had been kept, "the terms of dispute procedures which some of the unions insisted on have not been honoured".

When asked whether there were too many people working for the papers, he replied: "Well, not working there are too many people sitting around and standing around. One questioner wondered why he had bought the newspapers in the first place. 'I do too', Mr Murdoch said.

The News International statement also said that some groups at TNL "appear to be intractable in their unwillingness to negotiate with a view to achieving a viable future for the company".

"These groups are frustrating attempts to bring about the total agreement which we have stated from the outset to be an essential condition for the continued publication of the titles," the statement said.

That is believed to refer to the clerical staffs of the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel (Nasop), from whom the company is seeking a reduction of 371 jobs.

Mr William Keys, general secretary of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades (Sogat), said last night that he expected to meet Mr Murdoch tomorrow and believed that other union groups would be at the meeting. News International executives were unable to confirm that the meeting would take place.

Five independent national directors of TNL are due to meet on Monday morning to discuss Mr Murdoch's proposals to transfer the titles of the two newspapers into the ownership of News International. The titles had been transferred from TNL but were returned to the company by News International after a court order from the High Court at the Department of Trade.

The National Union of Journalists (NUJ) yesterday urged them to oppose the transfer of titles in order to preserve the status and integrity of Times Newspapers Ltd with its titles.

## Overseas selling prices

Aspirin 50c, Aspirin 100c, Aspirin 200c, Aspirin 300c, Aspirin 400c, Aspirin 500c, Aspirin 600c, Aspirin 700c, Aspirin 800c, Aspirin 900c, Aspirin 1000c, Aspirin 1100c, Aspirin 1200c, Aspirin 1300c, Aspirin 1400c, Aspirin 1500c, Aspirin 1600c, Aspirin 1700c, Aspirin 1800c, Aspirin 1900c, Aspirin 2000c, Aspirin 2100c, Aspirin 2200c, Aspirin 2300c, Aspirin 2400c, Aspirin 2500c, Aspirin 2600c, Aspirin 2700c, Aspirin 2800c, Aspirin 2900c, Aspirin 3000c, Aspirin 3100c, Aspirin 3200c, Aspirin 3300c, Aspirin 3400c, Aspirin 3500c, Aspirin 3600c, Aspirin 3700c, Aspirin 3800c, Aspirin 3900c, Aspirin 4000c, Aspirin 4100c, Aspirin 4200c, Aspirin 4300c, Aspirin 4400c, Aspirin 4500c, Aspirin 4600c, Aspirin 4700c, Aspirin 4800c, Aspirin 4900c, Aspirin 5000c, Aspirin 5100c, Aspirin 5200c, Aspirin 5300c, Aspirin 5400c, Aspirin 5500c, Aspirin 5600c, Aspirin 5700c, Aspirin 5800c, Aspirin 5900c, Aspirin 6000c, Aspirin 6100c, Aspirin 6200c, Aspirin 6300c, Aspirin 6400c, Aspirin 6500c, Aspirin 6600c, Aspirin 6700c, Aspirin 6800c, Aspirin 6900c, Aspirin 7000c, Aspirin 7100c, Aspirin 7200c, Aspirin 7300c, Aspirin 7400c, Aspirin 7500c, Aspirin 7600c, Aspirin 7700c, Aspirin 7800c, Aspirin 7900c, Aspirin 8000c, Aspirin 8100c, Aspirin 8200c, Aspirin 8300c, Aspirin 8400c, Aspirin 8500c, Aspirin 8600c, Aspirin 8700c, Aspirin 8800c, Aspirin 8900c, Aspirin 9000c, Aspirin 9100c, Aspirin 9200c, Aspirin 9300c, Aspirin 9400c, Aspirin 9500c, Aspirin 9600c, Aspirin 9700c, Aspirin 9800c, Aspirin 9900c, Aspirin 10000c, Aspirin 10100c, Aspirin 10200c, Aspirin 10300c, Aspirin 10400c, Aspirin 10500c, Aspirin 10600c, Aspirin 10700c, Aspirin 10800c, Aspirin 10900c, Aspirin 11000c, Aspirin 11100c, Aspirin 11200c, Aspirin 11300c, Aspirin 11400c, Aspirin 11500c, Aspirin 11600c, Aspirin 11700c, Aspirin 11800c, Aspirin 11900c, Aspirin 12000c, Aspirin 12100c, Aspirin 12200c, Aspirin 12300c, Aspirin 12400c, Aspirin 12500c, Aspirin 12600c, Aspirin 12700c, Aspirin 12800c, Aspirin 12900c, Aspirin 13000c, Aspirin 13100c, Aspirin 13200c, Aspirin 13300c, Aspirin 13400c, Aspirin 13500c, Aspirin 13600c, Aspirin 13700c, Aspirin 13800c, Aspirin 13900c, Aspirin 14000c, Aspirin 14100c, Aspirin 14200c, Aspirin 14300c, Aspirin 14400c, Aspirin 14500c, Aspirin 14600c, Aspirin 14700c, Aspirin 14800c, Aspirin 14900c, Aspirin 15000c, Aspirin 15100c, Aspirin 15200c, Aspirin 15300c, Aspirin 15400c, Aspirin 15500c, Aspirin 15600c, Aspirin 15700c, Aspirin 15800c, Aspirin 15900c, Aspirin 16000c, Aspirin 16100c, Aspirin 16200c, Aspirin 16300c, Aspirin 16400c, Aspirin 16500c, Aspirin 16600c, Aspirin 16700c, Aspirin 16800c, Aspirin 16900c, Aspirin 17000c, Aspirin 17100c, Aspirin 17200c, Aspirin 17300c, Aspirin 17400c, Aspirin 17500c, Aspirin 17600c, Aspirin 17700c, Aspirin 17800c, Aspirin 17900c, Aspirin 18000c, Aspirin 18100c, Aspirin 18200c, Aspirin 18300c, Aspirin 18400c, Aspirin 18500c, Aspirin 18600c, Aspirin 18700c, Aspirin 18800c, Aspirin 18900c, Aspirin 19000c, Aspirin 19100c, Aspirin 19200c, Aspirin 19300c, Aspirin 19400c, Aspirin 19500c, Aspirin 19600c, Aspirin 19700c, Aspirin 19800c, Aspirin 19900c, Aspirin 20000c, Aspirin 20100c, Aspirin 20200c, Aspirin 20300c, Aspirin 20400c, Aspirin 20500c, Aspirin 20600c, Aspirin 20700c, Aspirin 20800c, Aspirin 20900c, Aspirin 21000c, Aspirin 21100c, Aspirin 21200c, Aspirin 21300c, Aspirin 21400c, Aspirin 21500c, Aspirin 21600c, Aspirin 21700c, Aspirin 21800c, Aspirin 21900c, Aspirin 22000c, Aspirin 22100c, Aspirin 22200c, Aspirin 22300c, Aspirin 22400c, Aspirin 22500c, Aspirin 22600c, Aspirin 22700c, Aspirin 22800c, Aspirin 22900c, Aspirin 23000c, Aspirin 23100c, Aspirin 23200c, Aspirin 23300c, Aspirin 23400c, Aspirin 23500c, Aspirin 23600c, Aspirin 23700c, Aspirin 23800c, Aspirin 23900c, Aspirin 24000c, Aspirin 24100c, Aspirin 24200c, Aspirin 24300c, Aspirin 24400c, Aspirin 24500c, Aspirin 24600c, Aspirin 24700c, Aspirin 24800c, Aspirin 24900c, Aspirin 25000c, Aspirin 25100c, Aspirin 25200c, Aspirin 25300c, Aspirin 25400c, Aspirin 25500c, Aspirin 25600c, Aspirin 25700c, Aspirin 25800c, Aspirin 25900c, Aspirin 26000c, Aspirin 26100c, Aspirin 26200c, Aspirin 26300c, Aspirin 26400c, Aspirin 26500c, Aspirin 26600c, Aspirin 26700c, Aspirin 26800c, Aspirin 26900c, Aspirin 27000c, Aspirin 27100c, Aspirin 27200c, Aspirin 27300c, Aspirin 27400c, Aspirin 27500c, Aspirin 27600c, Aspirin 27700c, Aspirin 27800c, Aspirin 27900c, Aspirin 28000c, Aspirin 28100c, Aspirin 28200c, Aspirin 28300c, Aspirin 28400c, Aspirin 28500c, Aspirin 28600c, Aspirin 28700c, Aspirin 28800c, Aspirin 28900c, Aspirin 29000c, Aspirin 29100c, Aspirin 29200c, Aspirin 29300c, Aspirin 29400c, Aspirin 29500c, Aspirin 29600c, Aspirin 29700c, Aspirin 29800c, Aspirin 29900c, Aspirin 30000c, Aspirin 30100c, Aspirin 30200c, Aspirin 30300c, Aspirin 30400c, Aspirin 30500c, Aspirin 30600c, Aspirin 30700c, Aspirin 30800c, Aspirin 30

## Brittan stands firm on pleas for reflation

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mrs Margaret Thatcher's unwavering opposition to reflation, which she described as "dishonest money" in a television interview on Thursday, was echoed last night by Mr Leon Brittan, Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

With the Budget less than three weeks away, the Treasury appears to be taking every opportunity to prepare the country for a far less significant boost to the economy than many Conservative MPs and former ministers want.

Mr Brittan was clearly reinforcing the Prime Minister's outspoken rejection of reflation when he said that those who called for the creation of jobs through higher public spending and borrowing "were not being realistic about what happened in Britain in the past and what other governments were doing now."

"Those who urge us to abandon the fight against inflation and spend and borrow our way to full employment are practising a cruel trick on the British people in general and the unemployed in particular," he said in his Cleveland and Whitby constituency.

The escalating levels of inflation in the past, and the failure to reduce them were

among the main causes of the present levels of unemployment. No policy which envisaged easing up in the fight against inflation would create jobs that would last, but would destroy them.

Mr Brittan said that responsible governments had rejected policies which jeopardized success in the slow battle against inflation. "They recognize that a lasting reduction in unemployment could only be achieved when inflation has been brought down and it is believed that it will stay down."

Mr Francis Pym, Leader of the Commons and Lord President of the Council, who incurred the Prime Minister's displeasure two weeks ago for what she regarded as a too pessimistic contribution to the economic debate, last night paid tribute to Mrs Thatcher's honesty and courage for putting long-term sustained recovery above short-term popularity and soft options.

In a speech in Hull, Mr Pym called for a sense of crusade to be adopted in the quest for new industries, markets and products as some of Britain's traditional industries declined.

"We must use our native skills, our ingenuity and our

inventive genius to earn our living and pay our way. We must use our technical skills and wits to sustain and improve our living standards," he said.

Mr Michael Foot, the Labour leader, last night accused the Government of "political muggery" against the jobless.

He said that 1982 was to be the year for the persecution of the jobless. They were to be harassed, impoverished and degraded.

Mr Foot, speaking in Carlisle, said the long-term unemployed had suffered most. After a year on the dole their income fell by £10 a week to the supplementary benefit level. Those who had been on the register for six months had seen the value of their benefit cut by 7 per cent under the Tories and were now to have it brought into tax.

The worst-affected "victims" were those who had been out of work for less than six months, who lost £13 a week earnings related supplement.

Mr Foot supposed the Government was using unemployment to terrify those still in work into accepting lower wages and forcing those on dole to take low-paid jobs.

## Paper fined £500 for contempt

By Frances Gibb

Mr David English, editor of the *Daily Mail*, who was found guilty of contempt of court last December over an article published during the Downs syndrome baby trial, was released without penalty from the High Court in London yesterday. Associated Newspapers, the proprietors, were fined a nominal £500.

But immediately after the ruling Mr English said: "This is a test case of a new Act of Parliament (the Contempt of Court Act) which I believed would tilt the balance towards greater freedom for the press to comment on these matters, even if there are court cases going on at the same time." Lord Mawson, QC, for the paper, was given leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

When publishing the article the newspaper believed the new Act permitted such comment, not possible before the Act was in force.

Lord Justice Watkins, sitting with Mr Justice Boreham and Mr Justice Glidewell, said Mr English could not have been personally responsible for the article, the author of which was Mr Malcolm Muggeridge, the writer and broadcaster.

The article, printed on October 15 during the trial of Dr Leonard Arthur, the consultant paediatrician who was found not guilty of attempted murder of the Downs' baby, was a declaration of support for a private life candidate standing in the Croydon, North West, by-election.

By implication the article clearly referred to the trial, Lord Justice Watkins said. When Mr English later saw the article he showed to the newspaper's lawyer, who assured him it could not be taken as referring to the trial.

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## 2,000 join strike in council job dispute

By Michael Hornsell

Two thousand employers of the London Borough of Islington, the first SDP-controlled local authority in the country, walked out yesterday in protest at the suspension of a member of the housing department.

The council's legal, housing and social services departments and libraries, swimming pools and recreational facilities, were closed by the one-day strike. More action may be taken next week.

The workforce, mostly members of the National and Local Government Officers' Association (NALGO), stopped work in support of 250 colleagues from the housing department who have been on strike for more than a week over the suspension of Mr Robert Webb, who worked in the council house transfer section.

Mr Webb, aged 29, had been a temporary worker in the department for 15 months until the end of last year, when he was given a permanent £5,500-a-year transfer staff. But when he arrived to start his new job on January 4 he was told that there was no job available after all in the section and was assigned back to his former department.

With union backing he reported for work in the transfer section five weeks later after fruitless negotiations and was suspended on full pay, pending a disciplinary hearing.

Islington council has rent arrears of more than £1m, and last November, Mr John Stanley, Minister for Housing and Construction, warned the council that if better progress was not made in selling houses to tenants under the Government's legislation a commissioner would be sent in (A Correspondent writes).

Mr Webb said he had been a temporary worker in the department for 15 months until the end of last year, when he was given a permanent £5,500-a-year transfer staff. But when he arrived to start his new job on January 4 he was told that there was no job available after all in the section and was assigned back to his former department.

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## How rare falcon was saved from dodo's fate

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A way of breeding kestrels in captivity, used by Mr Carl Jones, a young Welsh ornithologist, has been used by him in a last-minute attempt to save one of the world's rarest birds of prey from extinction. The bird under threat is the Mauritius falcon.

The rescue is remarkable for two reasons. First, many naturalists believed the falcon population had declined beyond recovery. Second, the method Mr Jones adopted involves the controversial practice of taking a clutch of eggs from the nest for rearing in captivity, but timing the action so that the birds lay a second clutch.

A report on the present numbers of the Mauritius falcon, which experts from international wildlife organizations believed four years ago had fallen below 10 and hence to an irretrievable level, was the subject of the programme *Nature Watch*, made by Central Independent Television. It is being screened on Monday.

The falcon declined as its forest habitats were destroyed by developments in agriculture and the destruction of its eggs by monkeys in the unprotected places where the birds were forced to nest.

Mr Jones was therefore invited by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the World Wildlife Fund and the Mauritian government to lead a programme of rescue.

The project was offered shortly after he graduated in zoology. Mr Jones is now 27 years old, but even before he went to university he had bred kestrels, owls and other types of falcon at his home at St Clears, near Haverfordwest.

As other people might take their dog with them for company, Carl Jones has taken his favourite peregrine falcon, a bird of prey with black, white and red plumage, to Mauritius.

The Mauritius falcon is only one of three birds of prey which he has mounted a rescue effort. But he believes the only way of saving them is through breeding in captivity.

He bred the young bird and chicks after finding a nest 600 ft up the side of a cliff.

From his experience in Wales he knew that if eggs were removed on the sixth day after laying, the birds would almost certainly lay again, probably in a safer place.

So he removed the eggs and raised them in an incubator. In that way he got a clutch bred in captivity and one in the wild.

Recently he obtained two more eggs from another nest, and four birds have hatched in captivity. More important, he says, they are from two distinct genetic lines, providing a good basis for inter-breeding.

One of Mr Jones's home-bred falcons.



## Heseltine's brush with demonstrators

Demonstrators threw eggs and biscuits at Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, when he inspected a private street cleansing operation in London borough of Wandsworth yesterday.

Mr Heseltine made light of the protest and was enthusiastic about the new arrangements which are saving the borough an estimated £500,000 a year.

The operation is run by Pritchard Industrial Services Ltd, and Mr Heseltine (above, right, outside the company's depot) carried out his inspection with Mr Peter Pritchard, chairman of the company (above, left, with a broom).

Mr Christopher Chope, leader of Wandsworth Borough Council (above, centre), Police made one arrest as noisy demonstrators threw missiles and insults at Mr Heseltine. His attempts to speak to people in a street market were shouted down and he was quickly ushered into a dustcart cab.

Mr Heseltine emerged from the depot with egg-stains on his grey suit. He said: "I am very keen on local authorities checking the prices for their services to see if private enterprise can do things cheaper."

Mr Heseltine dismissed the noisy crowd of chanting demonstrators as being no more than a publicity-seeking "handful of people from the extreme left, a professional rent-a-crowd". Ordinary people had greeted him in a friendly manner, he said.

About 150 civil servants walked out yesterday when Mrs Lynda Chalker, Under-Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, arrived at the Exeter offices of the Department of Health and Social Security.

The protest was over the Government's pay offer to civil servants, ranging from nothing to 5 per cent. Mrs Chalker described the walk-out as silly.

## Playwright cleared of plagiarism

Mr William Douglas-Home, the playwright, was cleared yesterday of allegations of plagiarism and awarded £100 libel damages. Judge Mervyn Davies, giving a reserved judgement, said there was no foundation in a claim by Mr Basil Ashmore, a stage-director, that Mr Douglas-Home had copied from the works of three playwrights. In 1967 he had asked Mr Douglas-Home to contribute a final scene but the two men could not agree on it.

Mr Douglas-Home had admitted that *The Kingfisher*, produced in 1977, was based on the final, rejected draft scene he had submitted to Mr Ashmore but he insisted it was his own work.

The judge said the draft final scene was Mr Douglas-Home's own literary work. The judge dismissed further claims by Mr Ashmore alleging wrongful use of confidential information, and for orders preventing the Lyric Theatre Co Ltd, of Thomas Henry John, theatrical producer and Lisden Production Ltd, of Piccadilly, London, from infringing his copyright.

Mr Douglas-Home was awarded £100 damages on his counter-claim alleging libel in a letter written by Mr Ashmore in 1977 to Mr David Grant, then manager of *The Kingfisher*.

## Success for women on health insurance

By Margaret Drummond

The Equal Opportunities Commission has scored an important victory against companies which discriminate against women who want to insure against sickness or accident.

Legal & General has conceded that excluding "all men peculiar to the female sex" from a permanent health policy discriminates against women under Section 6 of the Sex Discrimination Act.

The case was brought by Mrs June Almeida, who suffered an ectopic pregnancy and was ill for several weeks.

When she tried to claim £20 a week sickness benefit under her employer's permanent health insurance scheme, arranged with the Legal & General, she was refused the money because of the exclusion clause.

Both Legal & General, and the South London Catering firm for whom she worked have now agreed out of court not to fight the allegation of sex discrimination. An industrial tribunal will settle compensation and costs on Monday.

Mrs Almeida, who was supported in her case by the Equal Opportunities Commission, said yesterday: "I have been told that the Legal & General has backed down by not opposing my case. I would like to know why. The only thing I can think of is that they have not got a leg to stand on. It seems ridiculous that female complaints were excluded. If a man goes sick with a complaint peculiar to men he would get his benefit."

This success may have important implications for the insurance industry, which up to now has excluded pregnancy or pregnancy-related illnesses from permanent health policies or at least required a longer waiting period before the benefit can be paid.

But in both this and an earlier case brought by the commission insurance companies have shown a marked reluctance to fight the discrimination allegations and display their actuarial evidence in court.

Last month the commission forced the Prudential Insurance Company to abandon a permanent health policy which paid women less benefit than men.

## Driver wins cash for hurt feelings

Miss Alison Guest, who was refused a job as a van driver because she was a woman, is to receive compensation for injured feelings (a correspondent writes).

Miss Guest, aged 27, of Milverton, Wiltshire, took Alpine Soft Drinks to an industrial tribunal in June after they refused to give her the job. She was awarded £100 for loss of opportunity and costs against the Birmingham-based firm.

But a £200 claim for injured feelings was rejected. Now the Chelsea industrial tribunal has reconsidered after an employment appeals tribunal decision to support the claim. The amount of compensation will be decided next month.

## Prison murder trial delayed

The trial of three prison officers accused of murdering Mr Barry Prosser in Hinxton Green Jail, in Birmingham, in August, 1980, has been put back from next Tuesday to March 1 because lawyers in the case are engaged in another trial.

Melvyn Jackson, aged 32, Eric Smith, aged 32, and Howard Price, aged 24, were committed for trial at Leicester Crown Court by a voluntary Bill of Indictment.

## Oil search approved

Conoco (UK) has been given permission to explore for oil on a 250 square mile area on the West Sussex, Surrey and Hampshire borders, from Storrington and Henfield to Haslemere, Farnham and Aldershot.

## NEWS IN SUMMARY

### Armed men hijack petrol load

A police hunt was launched early yesterday for two armed men after what is thought to be Britain's first petrol hijacking (Our Carlisle Correspondent writes). It was discovered when a passer-by, seeing an abandoned Ford Cortina car in Scafeby, Cumbria, heard knocking from the boot. Inside was the driver of a Shell petrol tanker.

The driver Mr William Hardie, aged 51, who was unhurt, said he had been forced from his cab at shotgun point as he drove on to the M9 motorway near Grangemouth, Stirlingshire, in Scotland on Thursday evening. The police later discovered the tanker, with its load of 6,000 gallons of petrol, worth £8,500 at wholesale prices, five miles from Scafeby.

### Ex-MP fined for damage

James Sillars, the former Labour and Scottish Labour Party MP for Ayrshire, South, was fined £100 yesterday on a charge of wilful damage. Sillars, aged 44, now vice-chairman of the Scottish Labour Party, with his colleagues, were found guilty at Edinburgh Sheriff Court of breaking a window at the former Royal High School in Edinburgh, the building once earmarked for a Scottish Assembly.

### Man is jailed over explosive

Joseph Pears aged 31, a plumber of Braxide Street, Maryhill, Glasgow, said to be a high-ranking officer in the outlawed Ulster Volunteer Force, was jailed for six years at the Central Criminal Court yesterday for assisting in the possession of an explosive substance.

Mr Roy Amiot, for the prosecution said Pears and other Protestant extremists planned to send sodium chlorate weed killer, used in bomb-making, to terrorist groups in Belfast.

### Gretna forge for sale

The old blacksmith's shop at Gretna Green, Dumfriesshire, where clandestine marriages were carried out for runaway couples, is for sale. The shop, with its marriage anvil, stands in the grounds of the eighteenth-century Gretna Hall, now a hotel, which is on the market at £300,000.

Besides the 50-bedroom hotel and 14 acres of grounds there are two chalets, a museum and a gift shop.

### Woman in fire killing freed

Joan Bence, aged 60, a civil servant, of Stanfield Road, Clapham, south London, was convicted of the manslaughter of her lodger, Mr Michael McCourt, aged 62, but freed at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

She was cleared of murder after setting light to him during a drunken argument, and given a two-year suspended sentence.

### Prison murder trial delayed

The trial of three prison officers accused of murdering Mr Barry Prosser in Hinxton Green Jail, in Birmingham, in August, 1980, has been put back from next Tuesday to March 1 because lawyers in the case are engaged in another trial.

Melvyn Jackson, aged 32, Eric Smith, aged 32, and Howard Price, aged 24, were committed for trial at Leicester Crown Court by a voluntary Bill of Indictment.

### Oil search approved

Conoco (UK) has been given permission to explore for oil on a 250 square mile area on the West Sussex, Surrey and Hampshire borders, from Storrington and Henfield to Haslemere, Farnham and Aldershot.

## The risk of exposing crime

By Marcel Berlins, Legal Correspondent

Mr Jack Lundin, who was acquitted yesterday of contempt of court, considers it an irony that a journalist who exposes crime and corruption can suffer a greater penalty than the criminals he exposed.

Even though he was acquitted, the various consequences of his successful investigative journalism, including the possibility of imprisonment, have dominated his life for nearly three years. Had the National Union of Journalists and the magazine, *Private Eye*, not paid for his defence, he would have been thousands of pounds out of pocket as well. In contrast, two of the men he exposed were given suspended sentences, and their ordeal was over nearly a year ago.

In 1978 Mr Lundin, then a freelance journalist, followed up information that Ladup, the casino division of Ladbroke's, was using illegal methods to induce customers to gamble in their casinos.

Expensive gifts were showered on rich potential customers, gamblers were allowed to join casinos immediately, instead of having to wait for the statutory 48 hours, and people were paid commission to introduce gamblers to casinos, based on how much they lost.

The most significant illegality, which eventually resulted in Mr Lundin facing court proceedings, was that Ladup officials were noting the registration numbers of cars parked outside rival casinos and having the owners traced through the police computer in Nottingham. Those owners were then lavishly wooed to switch

to Ladbroke's luxury casinos, the Ladbroke Club, the Hertford Club, the Park Lane Casino and the Park Tower.

As a direct result of Mr Lundin's disclosure in *Private Eye*, the police started investigating Ladbroke's casino activities, originally led to the company losing its casino licences. When an appeal failed, Ladbroke's moved out of the casino business altogether.

Police inquiries into the unauthorized use of the police computer resulted in three men being prosecuted under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1906.

Rodney Widdowson and Gordon Irvine, employees of Ladup, admitted corruptly agreeing to give Police Sergeant Brian George Crowston, from the Nottingham police force, money for obtaining and passing on information in the Police National Computer. Both men were given six-month suspended prison sentences.

Sergeant Crowston, however, denied accepting the money. His trial started at Nottingham Crown Court on June 2.

A crucial part of the case depended on whether a document containing a list of car numbers bore Sergeant Crowston's handwriting. Under the laws of evidence it would normally produce the necessary document, but only a photostat copy was available.

Mr Lundin had been given the copy of the document by Mr Andreas Christensen, a Ladbroke's employee, when preparing his *Private Eye* article, but he had promised Mr Christensen that he

would not reveal his source.

From the point of view of the prosecution in Sergeant Crowston's trial, it was necessary for Mr Lundin to explain how he obtained the copy and what might have happened to the original. The police and the prosecution knew Mr Lundin's source, but only he could give direct evidence about the document.

Mr Lundin declined on several occasions to reveal the identity of his source.

The law at that time was that a journalist did not have a legal right to refuse to reveal confidences.

Section 10 of the Contempt of Court Act, 1981, now gives a journalist the legal right to refuse to name a source, and not be guilty of contempt, unless it is established to the satisfaction of the court that disclosure is necessary in the interests of justice or national security, or for the prevention of disorder or crime.

In Sergeant Crowston's case the prosecution and the judge, Mr Justice Webster, felt it was essential that Mr Lundin reveal how and from whom he got the copy of the document, so that the absence of the original could be explained.

When Mr Lundin declined to answer the crucial question, the prosecution decided in the absence of the handwriting evidence, now not admissible, not to proceed against Sergeant Crowston. The trial was stopped and Sergeant Crowston acquitted.

It is doubtful whether Mr Lundin would have escaped contempt proceedings if the new Act had been in force.

Law Report, page 21

## Anti-caning teacher fails to regain job

A teacher who was dismissed for applying to a protest group about the amount of corporal punishment in his school yesterday lost an action in the High Court to regain his job.

Mr Alan Corkish, aged 37, an English teacher, was dismissed last August by Sefton Education Authority, Merseyside, after expressing his views on corporal punishment to a group of teachers. Opposed to Corporal Punishment his concern over the amount of caning at Litherland High School.

Mr Justice Comyn said Mr Corkish had failed to disclose a criminal record when he applied for his job. The offences, for assault, breach of the peace and carrying an offensive weapon, took place on the Isle of Man and on three occasions, the judge said. Mr Corkish was birched.

But Mr Justice Comyn criticised the governors and the authority for bringing the complaint of concealed criminal convictions and for varying the terms of Mr Corkish's suspension to take away his pay a month before his dismissal. He felt he

had been given no chance to challenge witnesses against him.

The judge said: "The law gives considerable latitude to domestic tribunals and does not require of them the same strictness as a court of law."

Another complaint against Mr Corkish was that he intimidated colleagues at the school.

Mr Justice Comyn said Mr Corkish had failed to disclose a criminal record when he applied for his job. The offences, for assault, breach of the peace and carrying an offensive weapon, took place on the Isle of Man and on three occasions, the judge said. Mr Corkish was birched.

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## WORKERS ORDERED TO COURT

From Our Correspondent, Edinburgh

A judge yesterday ordered 141 Plessey workers who have been occupying the company's Bathgate factory to appear at the bar of the Court of Session, Edinburgh, on Friday to explain an alleged breach of a court order.

Lord Kincaid, at the Court of Session, granted the interim interdict to Plessey on February 4 to stop the occupation, which began on January 25 after an announcement that the factory, in West Lothian, was to close.

Mr Heriot Currie, counsel for Plessey, said yesterday that it was clear the workers were aware of the terms of the court order.

Lord Kincaid said that when the case came back to court he would need to be satisfied that the workers were aware of what had been going on before the court pronounced on any penalty.

## BL's unique microwave link

BL is one of Britain's largest companies with manufacturing plants, offices and research departments spread across the country. A highly efficient communications system is obviously essential.

This is why BL has developed its own microwave communications network.

This network gives BL many advantages over the national telephone service and other commercial systems. For a start, it's cheaper to operate. And lines can be set up in a

matter of days.

The system is fully compatible with BL computer operations in many different locations giving central computer access to a wide range of users.

It has been designed to be totally flexible and can link up with word processors, videodata systems, electronic mail and other sophisticated communications devices.

And it's saving BL more than a million pounds a year.

BL Fighting back

## Two Spanish generals contradict each other

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, Feb 19

The two generals accused of leading the attempt to overthrow democracy in Spain contradicted each other in their testimony when the coup trial opened before a military tribunal here today.

Lieutenant-General Jaime Milans del Bosch said he took part only because General Alfonso Armada had claimed to be transmitting orders from King Juan Carlos, the Commander-in-Chief.

General Armada, former deputy chief of the Army, denied all knowledge of the plot to overthrow the 1978 constitution and insisted he never invoked the King's name or allowed his own name to be used to obtain support for the plot.

Both generals said they had merely obeyed orders. General Milans, aged 66, said he followed General Armada because he was close to the King. General Armada, aged 61, claimed that on the night of the coup attempt he was trying to find a way of freeing, without bloodshed, the 350 MPs and full Cabinet held in Parliament by Lieutenant-Colonel Antonio Tejero.

The generals sat side by side as their testimony — based on declarations to investigating magistrates and a subsequent confrontation with each other — was read today by officers acting as court clerks.

All 33 accused, three Army generals, 29 other officers and a single civilian, absent today with heart trouble in a

Madrid clinic, had pleaded entered by defence counsel that the charge of military rebellion be dismissed on the grounds that their actions constituted no offence under the code of military justice or could lead to any civilian responsibility.

Counsel for most of the captains and lieutenants also invoked obedience to higher orders. The military prosecutor is seeking 30 years' prison each for Generals Milans and Armada, which would bring dismissal from the Army, and a total of 315 years imprisonment for all the accused.

In an opening statement, the prosecution claimed that the plot had been hatched by the seizure of Parliament in session to suppress democracy by force.

The two generals disagreed on what the prosecution described as a key meeting, on January 10, in Valencia. General Milans claimed General Armada had told him at the meeting of a conversation during which the King had said he wished to change the Prime Minister but was unable to find anyone suitable and wanted to find a way to control Spain's difficult situation.

The Queen allegedly was for a military man as Prime Minister but the King wanted a civilian. General Milans alleged General Armada told him he could make discreet use of this information. General Milans said: "Like everyone else, I thought that

all or part was known to the King."

General Armada described the alleged conversation as pure invention: "I never authorized my own name and, above all else, never involved the King. I never had any clandestine meetings with any military figures or politicians." He believed in a political road for Spain and opposed violent actions of the kind staged by Colonel Tejero.

General Armada admitted meeting several politicians, including Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, who was being voted in as Prime Minister at the moment of the seizure of Parliament. He maintained that these earlier conversations, though about politics, had not contained a proposal to form a Government which he would head.

Of his conduct during the coup night, General Armada claimed he had been authorized to seek, as a "personal formula", negotiations with Colonel Tejero and to allow him to leave the country. His aim throughout that night had been to avoid, at all costs, dividing the Spanish Army.

General Milans admitted receiving three calls during the night of February 23 from the King. He emphasized he had obeyed the King's order to withdraw his troops, in the second call made in the early hours of February 24, and to plead with Colonel Tejero the third call to give up occupying Parliament.

## Weinberger wooing Mid East friends

From Mohsin Ali, Washington, Feb 19

Mr Casper Weinberger, the United States Defence Secretary, whose recent controversial trip to Arab countries was defended by President Reagan yesterday, said yesterday that the United States needed to make friends in the Middle East without weakening its alliance with Israel.

"I think the only way we can have a long peace in the Middle East region is for the United States to be perceived to have a policy which extends the hand of friendship to several countries," he told the Los Angeles World Affairs Council.

"We need several friends in the Middle East. We are not strong enough to afford to ignore the desirability of friendship and support wherever it may exist."

Mr Weinberger's recent tour and his exploratory talks in Amman, Jordan, on the possible sale of F16 fighter aircraft and mobile Hawk anti-aircraft missiles led to reports that there were strong policy differences between him and Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State. The reports also caused grave concern in Israel, which strongly opposes the sale of advanced weapons to Jordan and other Arab states.

President Reagan yesterday said that Mr Weinberger and Mr Haig had coordinated their activities and there was no difference in policy between them.

The President also said there was no change in the United States' approach towards Israel and its dedication to the welfare of the Jewish state.

He said that Mr Weinberger's visit to Jordan was not correctly portrayed in some exaggerated reports. The President reiterated that Mr Weinberger did not bring back any request from King Hussein to buy American weapons.

Mr Weinberger said in Los Angeles that he would assure Mr Moshe Arens, the Israeli Ambassador in Washington, that the United States had no intention of cutting into the alliance between the two countries.

Reacting to persistent American press reports of a feud between him and Mr Haig, Mr Weinberger later said that such stories were "just plain wrong" and that he had the utmost admiration for the Secretary of State.

There has been again to have been tremendous effort to seek daylight or differences between us and I cannot see any."

Mr Palm Beach: Mr Jimmy Carter, the former President, is a non-profit organization that raises funds for social-welfare programmes in Israel. "Now, I'm sorry to say that American policy on the Middle East is very confused." It is very difficult for our Arab friends to understand what is going to happen."

## Schmidt foresees unrest over American interest rates

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, Feb 19

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, has warned America that the world economic crisis can lead to economic, social and political unrest in Europe.

In an interview with *The New York Times* he criticized the expected United States budget deficit which, he said, would probably keep up the highest interest rates and worsen the economic problems of the rest of the world. If significant steps were not taken in the next two years, every nation could be hit by depression.

Europe stood in greater danger than the Americans had so far realized, he told *New York Times* journalists. "The fabric of the economy and society is endangered by the deep recession and the budget deficit which, he said, was mounting. 'What I fear is economic and social and therefore political unrest: political destabilization as a consequence of economic destabilization.'"

The Chancellor has often complained in recent months about the damage that the American budget and high interest rate policies are doing to the economies of Europe and the rest of the world. But this was the first time he has publicly given so clear a warning that this could have social and political consequences.

His forebodings reflect a peculiarly German concern. The Germans have never forgotten the recession and mass unemployment between the two world wars which contributed to the rise of Nazism. The Second World War and the collapse and division of Germany. Even now, 40 years later, many Germans are not fully confident that their young democracy could survive a similar test.

The Chancellor advised the United States to reduce its deficit by cutting spending, raising taxes or a mixture of both, but he said, "It's not my business to interfere so

deeply in other people's economic behaviour." Right now, he went on, "the richest economy in the world is at the same time the greatest importer of capital. This is an unhealthy state. Capital was not being invested. Instead it was being put into New York to profit from the high interest rates. These rates, however, harm your economy, they harm the rest of the world even more."

In a talk yesterday to a very different audience — workers at a mail order firm in Nuremberg — the Chancellor said, however, that West Germany's economic situation was "not at all black" compared to that of other countries.

He also forecast an increase in exports but said much depended on interest rates. The greater contribution to an upswing would be the reduction of interest rates to about seven or eight per cent.

The Chancellor made it clear that he intended to resist any pressure from the United States to scrap the huge gas-pipeline deal between the Soviet Union and West Germany and other European industries. "Other people can beat about it as much as they like. It will go ahead."



Herr Schmidt criticized budget deficit

The Government's most important goal he explained, was peace. "I believe in general economic and political understanding in foreign policy." West Germany must try and keep the balance between East and West.

In the *New York Times* interview, he repeated his assurance that NATO's deployment of its new medium range missiles would go ahead if there were no progress at the Soviet-American missile negotiations in Geneva. He also tried to dispel impressions in the United States that the European allies had lost the will to defend themselves.

"That's ridiculous," that Europe doesn't want to defend itself, he said. "It's an American fantasy," he declared.

The West German Government acted swiftly today to quell speculation that Herr Schmidt is planning a major Cabinet reshuffle.

A report by the West German news agency DPA, which said Herr Schmidt was thinking of replacing at least four Cabinet ministers, was dismissed by the chief government spokesman, Herr Kurt Becker, as "pure invention".

The agency, quoting informed sources, said the reshuffle was possible in early summer. It said Count Otto von Lamsdorff, the Economics Minister, and Herr Josef Erd, the Agriculture Minister, both members of the Free Democratic Party, were likely to be replaced along with their Social Democratic Party colleagues, Frau Anja Huber, the Health Minister.

DPA said the plan foresew Herr Siegfried Angel, the Defence Minister, taking over as Social Democrat parliamentary floor leader from the veteran politician, Herr Herbert Wehner, who is 75. Herr Angel's replacement as minister "would be Herr Hans-Jürgen Wischniewski."

## NEWS IN SUMMARY

### Nkomo's allies to resign

Salisbury. — The two remaining Patriotic Front (PF) members of the Zimbabwe Cabinet appear to be staying loyal to their leader, Mr Joshua Nkomo, who was dismissed from office by Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister. (Stephen Taylor writes).

Mr Clement Muchachii, the senior PF member of the Government remaining after the mid-week purge, announced yesterday he was resigning. Mr Daniel Ngunya, the Minister of Roads and the other PF minister, is also expected to resign.

Mr Nkomo, who has said the party would start planning for the next elections in 1985, was still thought to be in Salisbury, but likely to return to Bulawayo at the weekend.

There were no reports of violence yesterday in the aftermath of the purge but sources in Bulawayo said the city was tense. Fighting between rival Nkomo and Mugabe supporters appeared distinctly possible this weekend.

### Sphinx's beard unruffled

Mr Abdul Hamid Radwan, Egypt's Minister of Culture, has left Britain without the piece of the Sphinx's beard which he came to London to request from the British Museum.

He made no formal application for its return, but it is understood that he held preliminary talks with museum officials about a possible eventual restoration to Egypt, perhaps on permanent loan.

### Schild kidnap charges

Rome. — Cross-examination of witnesses began at the trial in Cagliari, Sardinia, of 35 people accused of two murders and a high-level kidnapping, including those of Mr Rolf Schild, a British engineer, his wife and daughter. (Peter Nicholls writes).

The hearings are expected to last about a year. Twenty of the accused are specifically charged with responsibility for the kidnapping of the Schild family on August 25, 1979. Members of the Schild family are expected to give evidence.

### Icelandic leader in Oxford

President Vigdís Finnbogadóttir of Iceland ended her official visit to Britain in Oxford, where she visited the John Radcliffe Maternity Hospital, the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre and Green College.

She is staying privately in London over the weekend. The Foreign Office said "the success of her visit reflects the traditional friendship which exists between our two countries."

### US advisers may get rifles

Washington. — United States military advisers in El Salvador may soon be allowed to carry M16 automatic rifles in the field under a change in the rules being considered by the Reagan Administration. Administration sources said that a new rule was expected very soon although no decision has been made, according to *The Washington Post*.

Such a rule would probably be couched in vague language, like letting advisers carry "personal" weapons such as an M16 under certain conditions. Current rules limit military advisers to carrying only sidearms.

But the White House and the Pentagon are concerned about the possibility that unarmed advisers could come under guerrilla fire and considering changing the rules in order to give them more protection.

### \$2m suit filed in rig disaster

New Orleans. — The widow and children of one of the 84 people believed dead in Monday's Ocean Ranger oil rig disaster have filed a \$2m (£1.1m) suit here against Mobil and Odeco. It is the first court action connected with the accident. Odeco, which has its headquarters here, is the owner of Ocean Ranger. Mobil leased the rig. Investigations into the disaster began last week by the United States, Canada and Newfoundland.

### Spanish hotels face World Cup strike

Madrid. — Madrid's hotel workers are threatening a general strike during the World Cup football competition in June in pursuit of an 11 per cent pay rise, a reduction in working hours to a 40-hour week and two consecutive days off a week.

### Editor arrested

Lusaka. — Mr Naphy Nyalugwe, editor-in-chief of *The Times of Zambia*, has been charged with publishing false information about a report that a lorry-load of weapons had been stolen from a barracks in Lusaka.

## Why Plenum is delayed

## Battle for the soul of Polish party

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Feb 19

Waiting for Godot, it seems, has nothing on the prolonged mysterious wait for the plenary session of the Polish Communist Party's Central Committee.

For weeks now, party officials have been hinting that a meeting — the first since the imposition of martial law — is imminent, that the party's policy-making body is ready to undergo a public catharsis.

But while the lights burn late at the Central Committee Building in Jerszelski Avenue, and the rumours of an impending sprout of will, there has been nothing but a stubborn, official silence.

Preparations are under way, that much is admitted, but the proposed dates now for the next Wednesday and two weeks hence. Delay, runs the rule of thumb in Eastern Europe, means dissension and there is eager speculation about some ideological blood-letting.

In fact, the session is likely to be rather quiet, for there is still a certain amount of face left to save, a need to convey a credible image to the Polish people at a time when the Communist Party is in the popular estimation somewhat below the standard of militiamen and corrupt shopkeepers. But there is evidently a struggle for influence in the Central Committee and this may, more by accident than design, bring about changes in the top leadership.

There are two theories circulating among party activists, both are based on the assumption that the Central Committee which took shape at the emergency party congress last July, is a largely inexperienced body. Then the mood of the Central Committee was against professional and local politicians and in favour of men and women closer to the workers.

About 40 of the 200 full members were also Solidarity members, an increased number were Army officers (10 instead of 12) and private farmers and teachers were particularly well represented. To some degree this make-up is reflected in the Politburo elected by the Central Committee.

This Central Committee voted strongly in favour of General Wojciech Jaruzelski and his policies last summer. This was accompanied by a signal that the party wanted to cut away the extremes, both reformist and hardliner. The first theory is, therefore, that the Central Committee's basic allegiance to a policy of moderate "central-

ism" communism is unchanged, but that it is losing patience with the ability of General Jaruzelski to fulfil the promises of last summer. The Central Committee, this theory states, is in favour of General Jaruzelski because he seemed to be both outside the apparatus and therefore pure and of it (that is, a loyal pro-Soviet Marxist). But, since taking over as First Party Secretary from Stanislaw Kania and since using military power to bolster his policies, he has lost ground.

There may, therefore, be some criticism of the general's position, along the lines that he has too many hats — head of the Military Council, Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, party chief — and should hand one over to somebody else.

But this is extremely unlikely to lead to the toppling of General Jaruzelski as the Central Committee believes the official line that Poland is on the brink of civil war, nor is he likely to cede the position of party chief before the lifting of martial law. That would devalue the military takeover which was carried out partly to give the party a breathing space.

The second theory thus seems the more probable. This states that General Jaruzelski's position will not be seriously questioned but that his line of moderate conciliation will be challenged. Those who argue this within the party say that the mood of the Central Committee has changed over the past six months, that there is a new breed of provincial administrator who wants to stamp out all ideological deviation.

If in doubt, take no risks, swear allegiance to Marxism-Leninism, hit hard at Solidarity, and the Catholic Church even stay loyal to personalities but move policies away from centralist positions towards a less flexible commitment to ideological principles.

It has been said that there is a battle for the soul of Polish communism, or more precisely, for the leadership of the party; but neither of these matters will be resolved at the plenum. In the meantime, the purge of party activists and administrative heads will continue, and so will the fight against the entrenched party apparatus that blocked earlier attempts at reform.

## Africans acclaim the Pope as a superstar

From Godfrey Morrison, Libreville, Feb 19

When he dismissed the alien ideologies of Marx, Lenin, and Mao Tse-tung as "just talk".

Throughout his African tour, during which the Pope has visited Nigeria, Benin, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea, he has advised his African listeners to avoid foreign ideologies, particularly materialist ones.

Even allowing for the public relations propensities of the Vatican scribes, the Pope in eight days has managed 35 speeches or sermons — it is quite obvious that Pope John Paul has a genuine affection for Africa, perhaps engendered by his first visit here in 1980, and perhaps encouraged by Pope

Paul VI, who called it *nostra patria Christi* the new homeland of Christ, because of the natural and spontaneous nature of the Africans' liking for religions of all kinds.

But Pope John Paul remains every inch a Pole and, despite the exotic surroundings he has lived through in the last week — Masses punctuated by tribal dancing, drumming and singing — when talking about the rights of workers yesterday he mentioned a long list of what they should be accorded, ending with the words "the freedom of association of trades unions".

The love shown to him by young people is entirely reciprocated by the pontiff.

He seems to take a fairly pessimistic view of the modern world, but speaking to young people here he said: "The generations who are coming along are beginning to feel the emptiness and indeed the absurdity, of a civilization which allows itself to shut itself into that sad paradise of the consumer society."

Throughout, the Pope and his entourage have emphasized the predominantly religious nature of his African visit, but he has not shied from delicate political questions.

In Nigeria and Gabon, two countries where oil has brought great wealth which has not been very widely distributed, he has spoken

out strongly in favour of social justice and against conspicuous consumption.

One thing the Pope has proved is the astonishing strength of the faith.

The Pope has also proved his "superstar" quality, a vulgar term which, perhaps illustrates that West Africans like people elsewhere in the world, demoralized by current political and economic difficulties, turn readily to a man who brings a non-materialistic message of hope.

He clearly hopes to return to Africa, a continent where he has twice received the unanimous welcome. On leaving here today he said: "M'adiou d'aujourd'hui n'est qu'un au revoir."

EEC exports dispute

# Strasbourg fury at vote delay on Soviet sales

From George Clark, Strasbourg, Feb 19

Amid protests and repeated points of order, the European Parliament was today "counted out" when it was about to vote on a controversial resolution which accused the EEC Commission of failing to restrict food exports to Russia during 1980 as part of Western reprisals against the invasion of Afghanistan. The Conservative group accused the Socialists of deliberately staying away so that there was not the required 145 members for a quorum. The debate turned on a dispute between the figures of exports prepared by the Commission and those produced by the budgetary control committee of the Parliament, figures accepted as valid by the Conservatives.

Herr Heinrich Aigner, West German chairman of the Council of Ministers agreed that food exports should be kept down to an average of the total over the previous three years, and that there should be no increase to replace the supplies cut off by the United States. But in fact there was a huge increase in exports, he said. Those of wheat increased from 5,000 tons in 1979 to 500,000 tons in 1980, beef and veal went up from 22,000 tons to 97,000 tons, and sugar from 225,000 tons to 833,000. The figures were official Commission statistics, he said. It was clear that the Commission had been unable to control prices or amounts. It was like a football that had been kicked around by trade and market forces.

Everyone knew that a Frenchman who ran an export firm had a virtual monopoly of trade between the Community and Russia, Herr Aigner said. When asked how he had managed to become a multi-millionaire so quickly, the Frenchman said: "Through the stupidity of my trading partners."

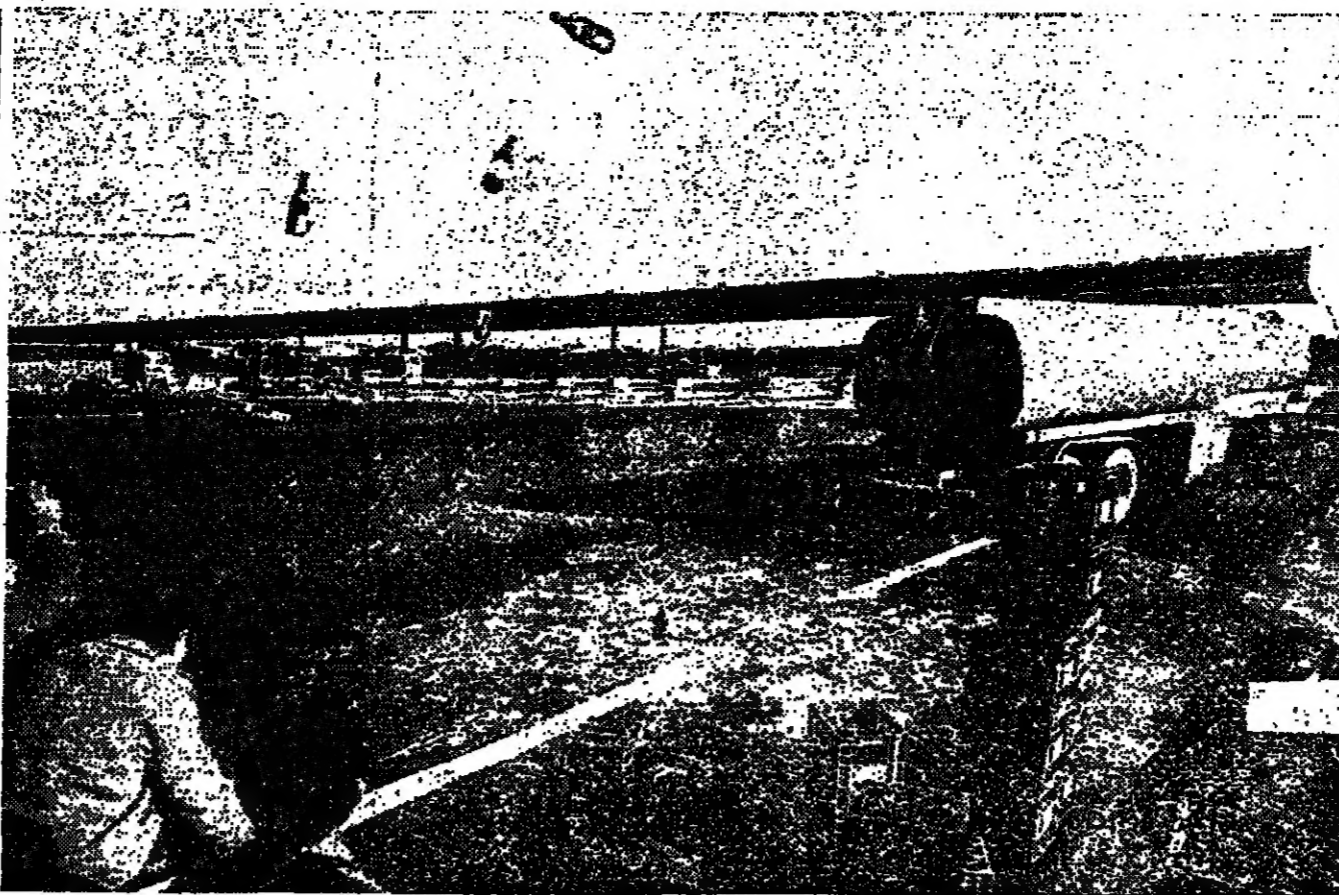
Herr Aigner said that the director-general of the agricultural division of the Commission was in fact the main trading partner of this company. "We know that on one single deal of 25,000 tons of wheat there was a straight profit of 30 million units of account (about £15m) and that gives you some idea of

the speculative profits that could be made", he said. Mr Brian Ford, Conservative MEP for London, West, complained about the performance of the Commission and the impossibility of defending its actions to electors. He said Mr Roy Jenkins, the former president of the Commission, would have had difficulty in explaining why British taxpayers' money should be used to provide cheap food for Russians. Herr Ulrich Irmer, for the Liberals, said that the huge subsidy provided by European taxpayers was actually being used through these trade deals to finance the Communist Party in France.

Mr Alan Tyrell, Conservative MEP for London, East, said that when Olympic athletes and others were making personal sacrifices to demonstrate their opposition to the invasion of Afghanistan, the EEC Commission was dismally failing to support the actions of the free world. "It was either incompetence or knavery, or a combination of the two", he said; and the budgetary control committee would carry on its investigations.

Communist and other speakers complained that the committee was engaged in a cold war with Russia and that the figures were open to challenge. Mr Paul Dalsager, EEC Commissioner for Agriculture, made a spirited defence of his predecessors. He said the restriction on exports lasted from January 1980 to April 1981, and it must be realized that in the first few months existing export licences were in effect and supplies were in the pipeline. These could not be stopped. Products most concerned in the embargo were cereals. "During the period of the embargo we issued no licences for wheat whatsoever to the Soviet Union", he said.

For butter exports, the average had been 70,000 tons over three years, and the actual figure in 1979 was 135,000 tons. But exports in 1980 were 100,000 tons. The vote on the budgetary committee's motion is now put off to the March session when the debate can be resumed.



One for the road: Angry French wine producers smash bottles of cheap imported wine after seizing three Italian lorries at Saint Jean de Vedas yesterday

## 'Coup plot' foiled in Nigeria

Lagos, Feb 19.—Nigerian newspapers reported today that a coup plot had been foiled, and a government statement said a civilian and some soldiers had been charged with inciting troops to mutiny.

A statement issued by the office of the President said a Nigerian businessman, an army officer and number of soldiers had been arrested and charged with "conspiring to commit a felony by the incitement of soldiers to commit a mutinous act". The *National Concord*, which is close to the ruling National Party, under the headline "coup bid", said the businessman had handed out large sums of money to a major and several soldiers to overthrow the civilian government.

The government-owned *New Nigerian* said the businessman used to get big contracts under the previous military government but was not obtaining any from the civilians. The newspaper said there was no evidence of any disenchantment of ideological deviation by members of the armed forces.—Reuters and AFP

## Deng pessimistic on US relations

Peking.—Mr Deng Xiaoping, the Vice Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party, said that Sino-American relations are not good, and that the United States was mistaken if it thought that China needed it, according to Chinese sources.

The 77-year-old leader made the comments during an hour-long meeting with an American engineering professor, K. S. Mu, vice-president of Ebasco Services International.

This was Mr Deng's second public appearance, and his first with an American, since Thursday, when he ended a five-week holiday and inspection tour.

Mr Deng, who is known for a dry sense of humour, laughed off rumours that circulated during his absence from public view. He said he enjoyed speculation that his enemies wanted to shoot him, and added that he had been hit, figuratively speaking, by a few bullets over the years, but had survived. Mr Deng has been purged and rehabilitated three times.

Speaking of Chinese politics, Mr Deng confirmed that he has withdrawn from the

"first line" to the "second line" since the sixth Central Committee plenum last June, and how plays a less active part in daily decision-making. Chinese sources say that he plays an important policy-making role, and concerns himself with political strategy. Mr Deng confirmed that he is interested in the "big picture", and does not want to be bothered with small matters.

During the sixth plenum, Mr Deng said, everyone wanted him to become party chairman, but he declined, saying that, he did not want the job. His political ally Mr Hu Yaobang, became chairman, and is carrying out Mr Deng's policies of political, bureaucratic and economic reforms.

Mr Deng, who also is the driving force behind China's modernization programme, said that by the year 2000 he hoped that every Chinese would have an annual income of about £400.

He said his main goal now was to reorganize the central bureaucracy, and that he hoped it could be accomplished during the first half of 1982.—AP

## PORTUGAL FACES MORE STOPPAGES

Lisbon, Feb 19.—Portugal's main trade union grouping met today to work out a strike after the pro-Soviet Communist Party unveiled plans to step up labour unrest in order to bring down the Government.

The meeting of the grouping, most of whose leaders are Communist, was the first since a general strike last Friday. The Government claimed that the stoppage was linked with an alleged plot against democracy.

Lisbon public transport was disrupted today by a 24-hour strike by river ferries and the underground system. The government laid on fleets of private coaches.

Senator Alvaro Cunhal, the Portuguese Communist Party leader, told a party rally last night that strikes were necessary and insisted it was vital to bring down the Government of Senhor Francisco Pinto Balsemão before a forthcoming revision of the constitution.

Senator Cunhal said his party would demand a parliamentary debate on what he described as Government claims that the general strike was part of a coup attempt. —Reuters

## Clean living gets credit for drop in coronaries

From Piers Ackerman New York, Feb 19

Coronary heart disease has declined steeply in the United States, Canada, Australia and Finland over the past two decades, possibly because of relatively poor health education, an American professor claims.

Dr William Kannel, professor and chairman of the department of preventive medicine and epidemiology at the Boston University Medical Centre, believes that the decline may be due to preventive measures or changes in habits.

He says in an article in the current issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* that it is encouraging to believe that a combination of changes in diet, smoking, treatment of hypertension, and increased physical activity has contributed to the decline in the United States.

In England and Wales, where there has been much scepticism, scientific doubt and apathy about preventive physical activity has contributed to the decline in the United States.

"Among middle-aged men in 1968, the chances of a CHD (coronary heart disease) death in an American was 40 per cent higher than that of an Englishman, while by 1976 the American risk had actually declined to below that of the English," Dr Kannel writes. "It is of interest that the only segment of the English population that have improved their mortality are the higher social classes and physicians."

Dr Kannel emphasizes that the causes of the decline in the United States and some other high mortality areas remains speculative but that it is reassuring to consider that small changes in behaviour might have produced the large health dividends.

Britain lagging: Most British doctors accept that health education has been less successful than in America and that they have failed to persuade the public of the need to stop smoking, to exercise more and to eat less. (Our Medical Correspondent writes.)

The evidence that the treatment of mild to moderate hypertension reduces the incidence of coronary heart disease as well as of cerebral vascular disease has only recently been accepted and this delay must have affected the mortality figures here.

## NEWS IN SUMMARY

### JAL pilot's 'dangerous' manoeuvres

Tokyo.—A preliminary report on the Japan Airlines crash in which 24 people died in the Bay of Tokyo in February 9 said that the pilot had carried out dangerous manoeuvres during a flight on the previous day.

The report, by the Transport Ministry's Aviation Accident Investigation Committee, also confirmed that the pilot, Captain Seiji Katagiri, had behaved strangely as he brought the DC-8 in to land before the crash. "Captain, stop it, please", were co-pilot's final words on the flight recorder. Experts believe that the pilot put two engines into reverse thrust just as the plane came into land, braking it sharply.

### Sikkim ruler's funeral pyre

Gangtok, India.—About 20,000 Sikkimese attended the funeral of the former Chogyal (ruler) of Sikkim, Palden Thondup Namgyal, who steadfastly opposed his kingdom's annexation by India in 1975.

The coffin, draped in the former national flag of Sikkim, was carried more than two miles in a slow procession from the royal monastery in Gangtok to the hilltop cremation site where it was burnt on a funeral pyre 8,000 ft up.

### Body from sunk frigate found

Cape Town.—The body of one of 16 seamen missing after the South African Navy frigate *President Kruger* sank has been found, but hopes have dwindled for the survival of the others.

The 2,300-ton vessel collided with the supply ship *Tafelberg* during a gale off the Cape of Good Hope.

### Ambush kills 20

Delhi.—Secessionists killed 20 Indian soldiers today in an ambush in India's north-eastern state of Manipur. Five other soldiers were wounded, one of them seriously.

### Metro death toll

Moscow.—Between 15 and 30 people are now believed to have died when the escalator in a Moscow metro station gave way during the rush hour on Wednesday.

The early Seventies will go down in history as one of the most turbulent, disruptive and dangerous periods ever known to mankind.

Russia taunted China, East provoked West, the Arabs plunged the world's economies into chaos with a dizzying surge

in the price of oil, Watergate burst and America impeached her own President.

At one stage, while the Yom Kippur War raged in the Middle East, nuclear conflict between the super-powers seemed inevitable.

International brinkmanship reached

a level that made the Bay of Pigs look like a garden-party.

Henry Kissinger was, quite literally, right in the middle of it all.

Throughout the period, he appeared to be constantly getting on or off airplanes. Arriving and departing—

America's Secretary of State—"the world's best travelled, glorified messenger-boy."

Behind the scenes, it was a different story altogether.

Kissinger played a central and indispensable role. As mediator, aggressor, tactician, strategist and diplomat.

His unique account, his first-hand observation and analysis, will go down in history as possibly the most significant documentation of all time.

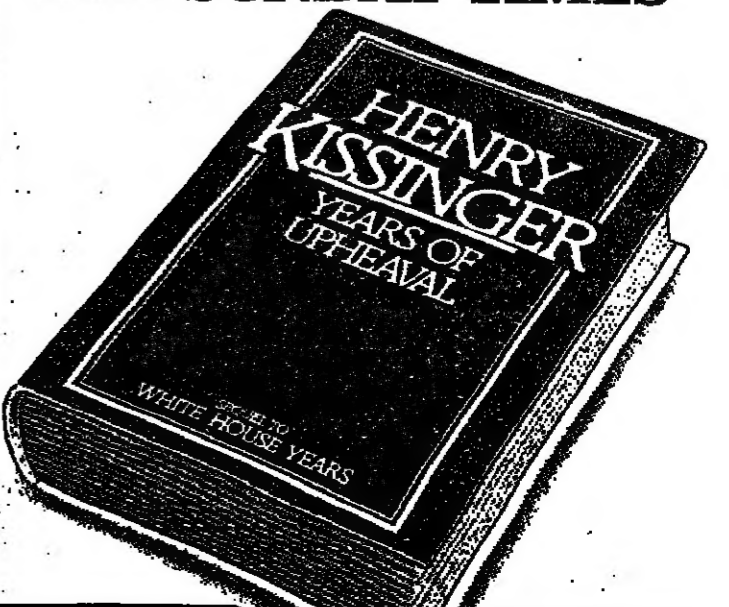
The serialisation of "Years of upheaval," the second volume of his memoirs, starts tomorrow in the Sunday Times.

It's a brilliantly written, striking cascade of anecdotes, vignettes, dramatic highlights and personal portraits of the great, not-so-great and just plain notorious.

And although it cannot single-handedly explain the world we live in today, it does, more than anything else, put it all into perspective.

Just like the Sunday paper it's printed in.

**THE SUNDAY TIMES**



# The nuclear threat to Hardy's heath

by Christopher Booker

The untameable, Ishmael-like thing, Egdon now was, it always had been. Civilization was now its enemy.

*The Return of the Native*

If outstanding tracts of Britain's landscape were protected by "listing" in the same way as our most valued buildings (and there is no logical reason why they should not be), a prime candidate for Grade One status would undoubtedly be the few thousand surviving acres of heathland in south-east Dorset, immortalized by Hardy as Egdon Heath.

This strange rolling waste of heather and gorse, stretching some 10 miles inland from the shores of Poole Harbour, might well be considered to meet the criteria of a Grade One building, a landscape considered to be irreplaceable and of such national importance that it must not be destroyed "except for overwhelming reasons".

Pervaded by the haunting, timeless quality captured by Hardy in *The Return of the Native*, these low, furze-covered hills and valleys round the little Saxon-walled town of Wareham are prized by naturalists as containing a range of birds, flowers, reptiles and insects found nowhere else in the country.

In recent decades this unique ecological island has been subjected to an unrelenting assault, as hundreds of acres a year have been taken for building and agricultural land, clay and gravel digging, oil exploration, military training and afforestation.

But today, Hardy's "Egdon" faces a new threat so dramatic that it raises the whole question of the heath's survival. For within 10 years this remote and wild tract of country could be dominated by the largest man-made structure in southern England, a massive complex of buildings visible for up to 30 or 40 miles.

Sometime in the next few months, the Central Elec-

tricity Generating Board will present Energy Secretary Nigel Lawson with their final choice for the site of the huge new nuclear power station they plan to maintain electricity supplies to south west England from the 1990s.

The CEBG recently narrowed down its original 50 sites to a final shortlist of three (one in Cornwall and two in Dorset) and there seem good grounds for local suspicion that the odds-on favourite is now a site in the middle of the Dorset heathland, just north of the village of Winfrith Newburgh.

The Winfrith site is the furthest from centres of population, the others being Luxulyan, near St. Austell, and Herby, near Weymouth. A small experimental reactor has already stood there for 20 years, and the main part of the site would present no ownership problems, as it already belongs to the Atomic Energy Authority.

But Winfrith does present one technical problem which does not apply to other nuclear power station sites. It is so far from the sea that a PWR (or Pressurized Water Reactor) here would require a cluster of special, giant cooling towers. Dwarfing even the main reactor building, itself 230 feet high, there would either be four or five of these vast towers, each 375 feet high (slightly less than Centre Point), or just two, 540 feet high — which would rank them, apart from TV masts, among the highest structures in Europe.

In addition, a pair of huge pipes would be needed to carry water to and from the sea, running up over the heath to Purbeck to the south and out to sea (via a large pumping station set into the cliff) next to the famous beauty spot of Durdle Door.

But what concerns the local alliance of parish and district councils, land-owners and professional



Woolbridge Manor, where Tess of the D'Urbervilles spent her ill-fated honeymoon night with Angel Clare, as it would be overshadowed by the proposed Winfrith nuclear power station at a distance of three miles.

naturalists which has formed to fight the choice of Winfrith is not just the visual aspects of the scheme, but its potentially devastating impact on the region's unique range of wildlife.

The power station would rise on a huge concrete platform over the remote valley of the Tadmole brook, itself one of the few remaining habitats in southern England of otters, and a breeding ground for the salmon of the Frome river to the north.

Much of the valley has been designated a Grade One SSSI (or Site of Special Scientific Interest) by the Nature Conservancy, for its concentration of such nationally rare species as the Dartford Warbler, Smooth Snakes, Sand Lizards, Natterjack Toads, Pale Butterflies and the beautiful Marsh Gentian, which grows here in profusion.

Indeed, the importance of Winfrith Heath may be gauged from comparing its species-count with that of the totally protected National Nature Reserve at Hardland Moor a few miles to the east. This shows that the two areas (probably alone in the Dorset heathland) contain an almost identical list of mammals, birds and reptiles, while Winfrith actually contains a higher species-count of plants and butterflies.

But the full significance of this loss of habitat can only be seen in the context of the scale on which the remainder of the Dorset heathland has been disappearing in recent decades.

A series of studies collected by the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology at Wareham has shown that, since the middle of the eighteenth century, when it covered 150 square miles, the heathland of the Poole Basin has lost no less than 85 per cent of its total area.

Fifty years ago the total area was still some 70 square miles. By 1960 this figure had fallen to 40, and it is now only just above 20 — much of it in pockets so small as to be of no ecological significance, or as semi-suburban land around Bournemouth (for example, 1,000 acres of Canford Heath).

Of the three major stretches of heath which Hardy agglomerated as Egdon, Puddletown Heath is now covered by conifers, Bovington is an army tank testing range and gravel pits, and only Winfrith remains largely intact — as a crucial "wildlife reservoir" to maintain the overall supply of rare species which can easily be wiped out in isolated pockets by local disasters such as the widespread heath fires of 1976, and need a continuous chain of "islands" to survive.

"The loss of Winfrith, would be ecologically disastrous," says Barrie Pearson, a scientist at the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology. "Not least because it would remove a vital 'island' from that chain — and the effect of its loss could well be seen over a much wider area than just that directly affected by the power station."

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# Where the trout are more slippery than Congress

Ex-President Carter's fly-fishing diary

Spruce Creek, Pa.

It was late May of last year, and my wife Rosalynn and I were taking our first private motor trip since our daughter Amy was born more than 13 years ago. We had spent two days in a camper moving through the Great Smoky Mountains and up the Shenandoah Valley to Pennsylvania.

As we crossed each mountain stream in Northern Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and Southern Pennsylvania we examined it carefully to assess the effects of recent heavy spring rains. Some were muddy and silted, while others were pure and clear, but I was certain that Pennsylvania's Spruce Creek, our destination, would be among the better ones.

Wayne Harpster, our host, who farms much of the Spruce Creek Valley land, is an outstanding dairy farmer and, not coincidentally, one of the best trout fishermen I know. While living in the White House we visited Wayne several times, and for more than a year we planned to return in the last week in May to celebrate two important events: Wayne's birthday and the annual green drake hatch. We never quite decided which event was more significant to him of changing the date of his birthday to match the hatch.

Thursday afternoon: As we sat on the front porch assembling our rods, checking our leaders and dressing our lines in the late afternoon, we could see the large mayflies (called "shas flies") by some of the local fishermen) darting up and down. An occasional trout rose, although we could not yet see any of the big flies on the water. I couldn't wait until after our early supper, though, so I floated a small yellow-bodied streamer far under the overhanging limbs and soon netted a nice stream-bred trout. It was a good omen for the coming days.

About eight o'clock the cloud of mayflies began dipping to the water's surface from the females to deposit their eggs, and trout began to rise regularly to take the floating insects. White trout, casters were on target and the floats natural, we caught fish. Most of our catch were 11 to 13-inch browns, but Rosalynn netted and released a beautiful 16-inch fighter.

Thursday evening: During the next few days our entire family would be together, all avid fly-fishers except daughter Amy, who still maintains a few other more urgent priorities. After more than a decade in public life we naturally value privacy during our rare vacation times; but the cheerful good companionship, so at our request, Wayne had invited our fishing friends Lloyd Riss and George Harvey to join us.

George had taught more than 35,000 students both the rudiments and the advanced skills of fly-fishing and was trying as professor at Pennsylvania State University. Now retired, he still shares his knowledge and wisdom — and his beautiful flies — with a few lucky friends.

Those of us who usually release trout, George crusades for barbless hooks, and during the week we were to be convinced of the value of his advice. It is much easier to slip the hook out of the trout's mouth without wounding it than to wrestle with a fish and possibly injure it. For fishermen like me who might be concerned about losing too many hooked fish without barbs, George has a simple argument. After a trout is on his line he will ostentatiously lay the rod on the ground and ignore it for a minute or two, then lift it again and reel in the fish. During these demonstrations he rarely loses a trout.

In addition to our discussions about fly-fishing strategy and tactics, my fishing companions and I conversed about the loss in moving from the White House back home to Plains — but not in reference

to the elections. Along with my other prized rods I had packed two superb bamboo rods, one of them specially designed by Tom Maxwell and built for me after their normal working hours by the craftsmen at H. L. Leonard Rod Co. as a gift for a fly-fishing president.

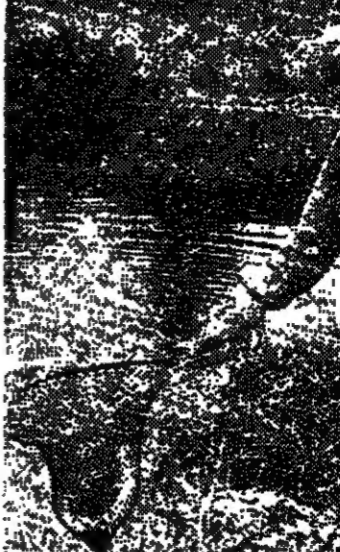
It suited me perfectly and was a favourite for light-tackle fly fishing. The other rod was part of a special conservation award commissioned by one of the sporting magazines after we had moved successfully to protect more than 100 million acres of Alaska wilderness.

They were among my most cherished possessions and had been handled with special care for the trip from Camp David for crating and shipping to Georgia. When I opened the wooden crates containing my fishing equipment, the two rods were missing. A subsequent investigation indicated that they had been stolen. These rods, not the election campaign, seemed to be the more serious loss to all of us as we discussed important matters by the tumbling waters of the Pennsylvania creek.

Friday morning: Early the next morning I was the first one up, eager to try the meadow stream above our cottage. For an hour or so I had to be satisfied with a solitary, the beauty of the sunrise and some practice in wading, casting, and testing my dexterity in the early dawn chill by tying on a wide variety of dry flies. Finally the sun warmed both me and the water, and using a deerhair black ant, I began to take trout.

Even more amazing, the big brown trout moved forward into the clear water, and I slowly but steadily worked closer in. He and I had a long tug-of-war. I couldn't pull him out and finally ran my hand down the leader and felt his mouth. As I tried to lift him free, he thrashed loose.

That morning's church sermon and my Baggins upbringing had not totally prepared me for such ignominious defeat, and I used a



A net gain for Jimmy Carter

The more frazzled and bedraggled the fly became, the more eagerly the trout seized it. On my last four casts I caught and released three fish, so I went back to the cabin to get my wife and three sons out to share the promising fishing. It was midday before we finally realized we had forgotten to eat breakfast.

Saturday morning: Don Daughenbaugh is a high school teacher in nearby Williamsport who has spent each summer for the last 17 years as a fly-fishing specialist in the Yellowstone area, where we met him on one of our presidential trips. I had invited him to join me early the next morning. I began to take a few fish on a small fore-and-aft fly with one grizzly hackle at each end of the hook and peacock herl wrapped in between. Later I tied a few of them, and the pattern proved to be surprisingly effective.

The trees, grass and snags reached out for the fly on almost every cast. Fish were feeding voraciously on an excellent evening dun hatch. But they were not for me. I finally gave up and waited for the others to return from the stream and, predictably, everyone else had had notable success.

Sunday morning: After my sad experience everyone was convinced that I needed to go to church. Afterwards, we drove up to State College to visit George and Helen Har-

vey. George ushered us into his workshop, where some of the best fly-tying in the world takes place. Each of his flies is a work of art. He gave me a much-needed lesson. As we left he offered me one of his ultimate gifts — a box of pre-second World War hooks made by Allcock and Co., Ltd. in England. We compared them under a magnifying glass with some of the most expensive hooks made today and their superiority was surprising.

Sunday evening: That evening Rosalynn and I fished together on Spruce Creek, leapfrogging upstream in alternate pools. I managed to pick up several trout as I fished a broad, shallow stretch. It was just after I returned the last one that I saw the large trout again.

It must have taken me five minutes to change to a heavier 2X tippet and cast quietly into the centre of the stream. Finally I was ready, took a deep breath and launched my fly. It curved perfectly, landed two feet above the trout, and he swallowed it as he rolled beneath the snag.

Even more amazing, the big brown trout moved forward into the clear water, and I slowly but steadily worked closer in.

He and I had a long tug-of-war. I couldn't pull him out and finally ran my hand down the leader and felt his mouth. As I tried to lift him free, he thrashed loose.

That morning's church sermon and my Baggins upbringing had not totally prepared me for such ignominious defeat, and I used a

Finally I prospectively, said, a re-become incapable action, sight of purpose, military vacuum, up a bass the way I Europe

## The Great European Eaters, 2: Gert von Paczensky at Inverloch Castle, Invernesshire

### A grouse or two

Many years ago I was agreeably surprised by good food served during a short stay in a hotel at Falmouth. Unfortunately I cannot remember the name. I have had some highly satisfactory meals elsewhere in the country — admittedly not many, but enough to be one of the very few non-British supporters of (some) British restaurant fare.

During my few London years however, the only outstanding food I found in the capital was smoked salmon, nothing else, however much I tried.

It lingered on in my mind until I found it again... in Paris. And while I always objected to the all-too-familiar stories about the alleged impossibility of finding good food in Paris, I used to agree that in London — if one didn't want to live on smoked salmon alone — the only decent places for eating out were foreign ones. All this was 30 years ago. Fattened by my own experiences in the British Isles, I went through the good food school that many people from Britain also frequent: France, years of it. Afterwards I watched the birth and growth of a really outstanding nouvelle cuisine, French style, in West Germany.

Being fortunate enough to travel frequently to the gastronomically more interesting European States, I think I was ripe for the kind of invitation extended to me by *The Times*: to have a

competent look, or rather bite (and sniff at some of Britain's famous restaurants — French cuisine or not. We chose them from two guides which seem most serious and/or successful: the Michelin and Egon Ronay's. Some are restaurants where the two are in agreement, others where they are not.

So we went up, one rainy day at the end of October, well into Scottish territory: Inverloch Castle. Surrounded by marvellous scenery as if from a painting of the British school, it reminded me nonetheless of a similarly impressive chateau not far from Marly-le-Roi, built at the turn of the century by a chemist from Paris. Still, I went to enjoy the cuisine, not grandiose-neuronal living.

The magnificent baronial dining room? Ronay mentions did not strike us as the ultimate in good taste or in practical arrangement: outside tables and chairs, two huge buffets; a third of the dinner guests seated with their backs to the room; very dim light, making recognition of your food difficult; a large service-carving and heating buffet in the corner, away from most tables. I understood why Americans, at least in films, love British castles with ghosts, but as a centre of gastronomic repute it seemed odd. A great

display of silverware, such as you would expect in the London Silver Vaults, does nothing for the palate, of course.

Contrary to what I'd been brought up to expect, the proprietors/managers shake hands with their guests several times a day, and the service at table is also unusual. It is not the waiter's

job here to put your food on your plate, but your own. The instruments available turn this into a rather awkward ceremony. We scratched sticky moustaches de saumon with a round spoon from a silver plate; we balanced grouse on tiny spoons and forks and hardly managed to get them on our plates. I am old-fashioned enough to think that in good restaurants all the work, except eating, should be done

by the staff. Guests pay far too much to want to be treated like members of the owner's family.

That mousteline: first it stuck to its silver container, then to the round spoon, then to the fork with which I tried to persuade it to settle on my plate. It had that certain fishy taste that any fish lover (at least) any fish dish.

And the grouse. When I was a child all sorts of game would hang from our window cross-bars — the winter in Silesia guaranteed temperatures low enough to let them hang there for weeks while they took on the game taste which our grandparents liked. The bitterness, the haut goût had to be tempered by plenty of cream sauce and enormous amounts of very sweet cranberries.

This Scottish grouse could be tempered by nothing. It tasted alarming throughout, even with its accompaniment of extremely sweet red cabbage and game chips. These at least were passably hot in marked contrast to the poor grouse.

If this speciality disappointed us, what about the no less famous Angus beef? It was thick (slices about five millimetres), colour from pink to grey, and it occupied our teeth far too long. The longer you chew meat, in contrast to bread, the less it

tastes of anything at all. That is why generations of cooks have aimed to serve tender beef if indeed any beef at all; most gourmets consider it second-rate pleasure behind lamb, various fowl, game, fish, shellfish and some offal.

"Our Angus had surprising good taste, but no discernible taste."

Nothing to applaud at Inverloch Castle? But certainly: an almost perfect soufflé citron (very sweet). And a discovery which compels me to actually recommend it to the wines.

The list here is not very large, but very good — and having just finished a Tour de France of three-star restaurants I found some great Bordeaux at Inverloch far cheaper. 1971 Pichon Latour 1970 Figeac £26, 1955 Coudert £26, 1966 Ducru £26, and 1961 Latour for £75; in French restaurants you pay more.

Inverloch Castle is not a restaurant but a small hotel, accepting about 26 guests. The 1981 rates were £81.50 per day for a room for two, including breakfast; dinner about £20 a head without drink; lunch by special arrangement only. The castle is closed now and Easter. The Michelin just mentions it as a pleasant hotel, not a word about the kitchen. I think that is the better judgment.

Next: Robert Courtine on wine and the English

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Geoffrey Smith

## Suddenly a coalition doesn't seem such a bad idea

"England does not love coalitions", Disraeli declared with a fine disregard for the opinion of the Scots, the Welsh and the Irish. He was speaking as long ago as 1852, yet from that day to this his maxim has remained part of the accepted wisdom of British politics. But a poll conducted by Marplan for *Newsweek* on BBC2 last night suggests that there has been a dramatic change.

Of those asked, 58 per cent thought it would be good for Britain, and only 23 per cent thought it would be bad, if a change in the voting system made it unlikely that any party would have an overall majority in the House of Commons and led to coalition governments. Just about the same division of opinion emerged when people were asked if the two-party system had been a good or bad thing for Britain over the last 25 years — 56 per cent thought it had been bad, and only 23 per cent good.

Is this simply a reflection of the rise of the SDP-Liberal Alliance? Or have British preferences perhaps been

misunderstood all these years?

These findings are certainly encouraging for the Alliance, but they are not a consequence of it. The same poll showed only three out of 29 per cent behind the Conservatives with 34 per cent and Labour with 32 per cent. It also indicated that a majority of both Conservative and Labour supporters, as well as adherents to the Alliance, look benignly on the prospect of coalitions.

Has this then been what the British have really wanted all along? After all, they turned to coalitions in both world wars when the very survival of the state depended on effective government. But that was entirely consistent with a national preoccupation with strong government. The

most familiar objection to coalitions in peacetime is that they provide weak administrations because the different parties have conflicting priorities. But that does not apply in wartime when victory is the supreme priority.

It is a desire for strong government that has been the traditional British preference. At least in films, I am old-fashioned enough to think that in good restaurants all the work, except eating, should be done by the staff. Guests pay far too much to want to be treated like members of the owner's family.

Yet over the years it has become apparent that governments that are strong in Parliament are not necessarily strong in the country. There has been the paradox that at the very time that Lord Balfour has been complaining of an elective dictatorship, this country has been experiencing a succession of governments that have been unable to make their policies stick because of the opposition of powerful interest groups, most notably the trade unions. Every few years we may elect a government that usually has been the constitutional authority to do what it likes, but time and again these same governments have been unable to impose their strategies for any length of time upon the country.

It is logical, therefore, if

public opinion has concluded that the old association of strong governments with parliamentary majorities is no longer valid. The fact that an administration had been elected to office is no longer an assurance that it commands the necessary public consent to put its policies into practice. The lack of the public consent for the favoured strategies of successive governments of different political complexions has been one of the principal causes of Britain's difficulties in recent years. No administration has been able to pursue its policies sufficiently consistently for the length of time required to give them a chance.

More frequent coalitions might be one answer to this problem. By their very

nature they can represent a wider section of the public than is possible for a single party except in the unusual circumstances of a landslide. It is now evident that the principal weakness ascribed to them — that they lack singleness of purpose — applies to single-party administrations as well.

England may not yet have come to love coalitions, but the British public is no longer contemptuous of them on principle. That is the significance of this poll: it removes what has been a substantial doubt about the efficacy of coalition rule, and consequently about one of the side effects of changing the electoral system. But it does not follow that we should now simply put our faith in coalitions as the answer to Britain's ills.

I suspect that the confi-

dence now reposed in political parties has become so weak that no administration, whether it is composed of one or more parties, can command the necessary support for its policies on the basis of its own authority. Major policies need to pass, and to be seen to have passed, another test as well.

One obvious answer would be to resort more frequently to referendums, so that direct public consent would be conferred on the policy itself. But there are valid objections to relying on referendums to settle policy issues, as distinct from constitutional questions like devolution or membership of the EEC. It is hard to secure coherence or consistency in policy under rule by referendum.

The other possibility is to

concentrate more upon parliamentary reform. If Parliament is seen to be simply a rubber stamp for the government of the day, it confers no additional authority upon the policies it passes. But if parliamentary approval were not to be taken for granted, the policies that were passed would be seen to be more than the product of the present dialogue within the government machine, and between departments and their special interest groups.

This would be inconvenient for governments in the short term because they would find it harder to get their legislation enacted. It would encourage a wide range of pressure groups. But it would also increase the influence of public opinion on particular policies because Parliament could be expected to be responsive to the wishes of the electorate, even if it did not follow their wishes slavishly. There is more likely to be consistent public consent for policy that has been passed in this kind of test before being put into practice.

Jimmy Carter

© Jimmy Carter 1982  
The author was President of the USA, from 1977 to 1981.



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

## NOT FINISHED YET

Examining the troubles of the western alliance not one of our four contributors this week succumbed to total despair. None thought the alliance would fall apart or had outlived its usefulness. All believed its problems were remediable. This is encouraging, though no cause for complacency.

Mr Brzezinski was worried by "a progressive dilution of Western cohesion" but thought it could be stopped if we could re-establish a degree of east-west accommodation and avoid re-igniting the Cold War. Herr Brandt's plea was similar. He strongly rejected suggestions that West German loyalty to the alliance might be wavering and said the issue was not the existence of Nato but its policies. Europeans, he said, merely wanted to maintain Nato's long-standing policy of combining military equilibrium, political détente and balanced disarmament.

M Couve de Murville pointed out that the alliance had always been plagued by disputes and ambiguities but its future was not in question: "The fundamental interests of the two parties to the alliance, the American and the European, coincide and that is why believe this association will last forever". Nevertheless, he suggested, it would be desirable if the Americans would agree to treat the Europeans as adults.

Finally Mr Callaghan said firmly that "there is no prospect of the alliance breaking up". But there was, he said, a real worry that it could become so divided as to be incapable of taking concerted action. "We have recently lost sight of a common political purpose, and, without that, military strategy exists in a vacuum... There is growing up a basic difference between the way in which America and Europe view the world, and

until our broad perceptions come together again the alliance will be ineffective".

That is really the nub of the matter. Europeans mostly feel that the east-west détente of the 1970s was a success because it reduced the danger of war in Europe, opened eastern Europe to western influence, and got arms control talks under way. Americans tend to feel it was a failure because the Russians continued to build up their weaponry and extend their influence in the Third World. Hence the Americans feel a need to return to a policy of active military containment while the Europeans feel that Soviet power can be managed without resort to world-wide confrontation which would jeopardize the gains of détente in Europe.

This failure to agree on the nature of the Soviet threat and the best way of counteracting it is one of the central causes of friction in the alliance. In European eyes the Americans never really understood détente. In the early 1970s many Americans thought it meant partnership with the Soviet Union in maintaining a stable world order whereas, in fact, of course, the Soviet Union was always wholly frank about regarding it as a framework within which the struggle — even armed struggle — for influence would continue.

When the Americans woke up to this it was a shock, but it should not have been. Moreover it was less the Russians than the turmoil in American politics in the 1970s that undermined Dr Kissinger's attempts to confront the Soviet Union with a coherent system of rewards and penalties. Properly managed détente was never fully tested because it was undermined from both extremes of American politics. At the

same time, however, the Europeans can be justly criticized for being insufficiently alert to Soviet threats to their interests outside the Nato area. This has contributed to American sense of loneliness and betrayal.

It would probably help if attention could be concentrated for a while less on specific issues and more on trying to establish a common view of the world's problems, and especially of the Soviet threat. This, if it could be achieved, would provide a foundation of consensus on which to plan specific responses. It would also enable the alliance to get a better order of priorities into its thinking. At the moment each issue tends to be treated as a major test of alliance cohesion. Yet what really matters is that the alliance should act together when faced with an event that could alter the balance of world power in favour of the Soviet Union. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan was such an event. The seizure of American hostages in Iran was not. Nor is military rule in Poland, no matter how regrettable. The alliance cannot be united on everything. Let it keep its vital interests in view.

Last but far from least the alliance should be looking not just at the Soviet threat but at other threats to peace and security, including especially the growing economic stresses within the western world which are being aggravated by Mr Reagan's budget deficit, as Mr Herr Schmidt has just warned. If the Americans want a healthy alliance to face external threats they must pay heed to warnings of this sort. It would be absurd if the ramblings of the western world were to crumble under the weight of weaponry intended to defend it.

## CORK'S LAST CHANCE

Sir Kenneth Cork, familiar provider of a better class of financial funeral service, has set himself and his colleagues a demanding task over the next few weeks in the attempt to make a success of the De Lorean car company. Voluntary receivership is clearly the company's best hope of survival in something like its present form. There was no point in putting in more public money trying to pretend that the existing financial structure could be kept in being. The government has effectively written off most of £70m and another £40m or 50m needs to be found in the next few weeks if anything is to be saved.

The Cork report says that if his extra money can be found the plan can be made viable. It is in the interests of everyone that he and his fellow receiver should succeed. Unemployment in Northern Ireland is 20 per cent of the workforce; in West Belfast there are pockets where every other man is out of work. The loss of over 2,500 jobs there would be a grievous blow and an unjust one for the De Lorean workforce has responded well. If Sir Kenneth Cork cannot succeed the government will have to take other steps to generate jobs. But success will do what it is originally hoped the De Lorean investment would do to restore confidence and excite further investment.

There are some lessons from the affair. It would be facile to say that the original decision must have been wrong. Not so long ago, when things seemed to be going well, the Department of Trade and Industry was being attacked for not securing a larger share of the risk-taking equity. The venture was, in fact, a reasonable risk and of course it might still flourish.

Where there does seem genuine ground for criticism is in the role of government after the decision to invest had been made. Mr Prior spoke sharply yesterday about the role of management mistakes. Mr De Lorean has said he sometimes had bad financial advice. Government was represented through the Northern Ireland office. It was, in effect, the banker to the project. But it does not seem to have kept the close contact with its clients that it ought to have done and the government-appointed directors on the board of the company do not seem to have

played a particularly effective role. Their presence was meant to be the guarantee that the public stake was being protected. Any future arrangement in which public money is involved ought to organize public scrutiny more effectively.

These principles will need to be borne firmly in mind if the restructured company asks the Government for any further support. The level of unemployment in Northern Ireland is so high that the Government ought to be willing to take greater risks to help activity there than in the rest of the country. But any new plan has to show real proof that it is laying the basis for permanent jobs at a reasonable cost. In particular, there will have to be convincing evidence that the fall in De Lorean sales in the United States is a temporary problem caused by uncertainty and market conditions rather than a deeper seated defect in the design aspect of the car.

If the new company can save jobs on that basis it ought to receive cordial backing. But if the slimmer bird will not fly, gull wings and all, it will be as well to recognise it and let the processes begun yesterday continue their normal course.

## BETTER IN THAN OUT

fatters must have come to a pretty pass in the world outside our prisons when the courts have to deal with itizens accused of breaking out of them but in Mr Whitelaw and other proponents of the short sharp shock will have to reconsider their philosophy if further cases like the one recently reported at Wormwood Scrubs indicate a radical shift in the balance of supply and demand in penal affairs. The prisons are so overcrowded already that the authorities would need no reminder that turning away volunteers, harsh though it may seem, is quite unavoidable. Those who are in prison by no choice of their own must be given the priority they deserve.

There has always been a humanitarian dilemma implicit in the fact that no man who has contrived enough to get himself into prison is likely to let himself starve on the doorstep. In the past, a rick hurled at a police station's blue lamp on Christmas Eve was proverbially a passport to the thin festivities of a prison banquet. But by temptation upon the authorities to adjust the strained gradient between conditions inside and out must always defer to the obligation to guarantee the basic decencies of treatment

to the Queen's guests. It is strong evidence of how very sweet liberty in itself is to the human spirit that even in the deepest wells of Victorian squalor that Mayhew reported with popping eyes, in Whitechapel or Seven Dials, most people exhibited a decided preference for being out of gaol rather than in.

We have not yet reached the point where the open prisons need consider fortifying themselves against external assault, with the inmates manning the barricades to fight for their privileges. But the impression that something odd is happening to our arrangements for punishment and reward is reinforced by the story of the Citizen's Band. In the circumstances, it is perhaps necessary to recall that this has nothing to do with Wat Tyler or Mr Peter Tatchell's proposals for improving the accountability of Parliament. The band is on the radio dial, a wavelength where anyone who cares to invest in suitable transmitting equipment and a licence can strike up conversation with anyone else who has done the same.

In the United States, a nation where democratic instincts are deeply ingrained, Citizens' Band has become an institution, an ethereal hub-bub of gossip and slang so exuberant and evanescent as

to defeat the art of lexicography. Until last year, broadcasting of this kind was banned in Britain. But the Government was presented with a problem. The British, whose instincts are cankerous rather than democratic, began to show a determination to indulge in illicit transmissions.

In what must be regarded as a stroke of notable statesmanship, the government announced that Citizens' Band would be made legal. Electronics dealers stocked up on a large scale in expectation of a rush. For a few weeks after Emancipation Day all seemed well. But the boom ended almost before it had begun. It became apparent that the British did not really want Citizens' Band now they had it. Why should they? They had made their point, but as usual they had nothing to say to each other, particularly not to people they had not been properly introduced to, and least of all when identified as Bushy Tail of Bagshot or Caddis Fly of St Andrews. By making it legal, the government had made it uninteresting. It remains to be seen whether the principle at work in this instance is capable of wider application. It will be instructive in due time to compare the success of the contrasted approach adopted by Mr Norman Tebbit.

It is beyond comprehension that the remarkable and ever-rising standards attained as the result of years of hard work on the part of schools, encouraged by the dedicated and distinguished leadership of the country's former music advisers, Mr A. W. Benoy and Mr Henley James, should appear to be considered totally dispensable.

The Music Advisers' National Association view with very great concern the likely effect on the morale of the schools and the

deprivation of a very large number of young people of an important dimension to their educational and social fulfilment. Furthermore, it is pertinent to observe that the national criteria for the proposed new examination at 16 plus require that all pupils taking the music examination must, rightly in the view of the association, offer performance.

It is to be hoped that when this matter is brought before the full council on February 25 they will reject what can only be described as an act of vandalism and request the committee to produce a proposal in keeping with the spirit of the resolution adopted at the CLEA (Council of Local Education Authorities) conference in July, 1981.

Yours faithfully,  
DENNIS WICKENS, Chairman,  
Music Advisers' National Association,  
County Music Centre,  
Gordon Road,  
Winchester.

## Israel and Syria: grounds for comparison

From the Israeli Ambassador

Sir, The Times has spoken out no less than twice on Middle East issues within a 72-hour period. On February 15 it commented on the internal situation in Syria and summed up its view on the subject by heading its leading article with the words: "The best Assad we have". On February 17 it pronounced on recent news concerning the possible sale of sophisticated American arms to Jordan and concluded that the United States should "reduce the level of American military aid to Israel". The upshot in both cases is that the real problem and danger — "of course" — is Israel.

President Assad can fire heavy artillery into the narrow streets of Hama, inflicting over 1,000 fatalities and untold injury and misery on many more thousands of his own people and still come away crowned with such Times accolades as "a man of straightforward dealing and statesmanlike behaviour".

The danger lies not in the bloody excesses of a brutal regime and its openly professed expansionist designs, as attested by a 20,000 strong army of occupation in Lebanon today and a massive military invasion of Jordan some years ago. "The danger [is] that Israel... might take advantage of Syrian weakness to launch a large-scale invasion of Southern Lebanon."

One is left to wonder how The Times proposes in the future to back up its strictures of the Poles for the "mere" imposition of martial law now that it has designated the perpetrator of mass slaughter in Hama as no less than "statesmanlike".

## Constitution of SDP

From Mr Ian Wigglesworth, MP for Teesside

Sir, Your leader of Monday, February 15, betrayed some misconceptions about the SDP that have grown up over recent months. It was never intended that there should be "central direction" in the party by the leadership or anyone else.

For the last 10 months the party has been operating under the interim constitution formulated during February and March of last year by the members of the Council for Social Democracy. It was published when the party was launched and conferred certain powers and responsibilities upon a national steering committee.

One of the most important of those tasks was to prepare a constitution for the SDP and to

## Social science cuts

From Professor Norman Long and Dr Jorge Dandler

Sir, In an otherwise well-balanced overview of Social Science Research Council projects and functions (The Times, January 15, "Why Lord Rothschild should not swing the axe"), Robert Long suggests that research on "diversified household enterprise and labour process in the Andes", currently being carried out by myself and Dr Dandler, "could be labelled esoteric". The article does not reveal the criteria upon which such a judgment might be based but simply contrasts "esoteric" research with that described as "relevant" to a country facing a severe economic crisis and having serious problems relating to unemployment and ethnic minorities.

This assessment we find strangely puzzling since one of our research objectives is to examine the survival strategies of households facing extreme scarcity of resources, very limited employment opportunities, and having poor standards of living. Also, as those who know the Andean situation can confirm, these

## Music teaching

From Mr Dennis Wickens

Sir, It is astonishing to learn of the proposal of the Hereford and Worcester Education Committee to dispend entirely with instrumental tuition in their schools. Acknowledging that last year's High Court ruling on the matter of charges may indeed have posed problems for the schools, the must surely deserve the weight of public protest it has aroused.

It is beyond comprehension that the remarkable and ever-rising standards attained as the result of years of hard work on the part of schools, encouraged by the dedicated and distinguished leadership of the country's former music advisers, Mr A. W. Benoy and Mr Henley James, should appear to be considered totally dispensable.

The Music Advisers' National Association view with very great concern the likely effect on the morale of the schools and the

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It is to be hoped that when this matter is brought before the full council on February 25 they will reject what can only be described as an act of vandalism and request the committee to produce a proposal in keeping with the spirit of the resolution adopted at the CLEA (Council of Local Education Authorities) conference in July, 1981.

Yours faithfully,  
DENNIS WICKENS, Chairman,  
Music Advisers' National Association,  
County Music Centre,  
Gordon Road,  
Winchester.

## Spending on ancient monuments

From Professor Martin Biddle and others

Sir, Over the past 18 months you have printed several letters expressing serious concern about the maintenance and presentation of ancient monuments in the care of the Department of the Environment. Recently, you have drawn attention to the department's consultation paper, *Organisation of Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings in England*, which proposes the creation of a para-governmental agency to look after these matters and to which reactions have to be made by February 26, 1982.

Neither the letters nor the consultation paper have said much about the archaeological aspects of the department's activities. The department's current policy of funding rescue archaeology on a project-only basis has thrown the main responsibility for the maintenance of a permanent archaeological presence in our cities and counties on to local government.

This is at a time when the same Secretary of State is seeking to hold down local authority expenditure by every means open to him. This inconsistency (or deliberate policy) has begun to bear fruit. The Policy, Resources, and Finance Committee of Hereford and Worcester County Council has just decided to cut the county museum budget by £80,000, or 45.2 per cent, for the coming year and has recommended that this

cut should fall mostly on the county archaeological service, which is to vanish.

If this decision is confirmed by the full council on February 25, there will be no archaeological presence in Herefordshire and Worcestershire. Like the rest of Britain, their archaeological heritage is under constant destruction from urban renewal, agriculture, extraction industries and general development, as well as by treasure-hunters. The Department of the Environment's policy of project-funding requires local initiative to get projects started and accepted for government support. Without a local presence, there can be no projects. The circle of inaction is complete.

The sad and unwise decision of one county council would not perhaps be worth comment, were it not the inevitable result of what can be seen as the Secretary of State's increasingly disastrous policies towards the management of the archaeological heritage.

This is a problem which will indeed go away if nothing is done about it, and, in its passing, will have taken unread the evidence for a great part of this country's past from the Stone Age to the Industrial Revolution.

Yours faithfully,  
MARTIN BIDDLE,  
PHILIP BARKER,  
CHARLES THOMAS,  
as from: Christ Church,  
Oxford,  
February 18.

## The Sphinx's beard

From Mr Edward McWilliam

Sir, In Egypt the idea has been expressed that the beard of the Sphinx had a functional, buttressing effect rather than the supporting tail of the rearing equestrian statue of Peter the Great in Leningrad. Certainly it is easy to believe that its loss has contributed to the deterioration.

Although the Egyptians have not, as yet, asked for the return of the bit of beard in the British Museum, when we visit the magnificent Egyptian galleries and think what we owe to Egypt, would it not be an appropriate gesture, were we not to offer help in the restoration?

The fact that the lump of stone in question is devoid of any aesthetic interest and has merely been taking up space in a store room for the past 50 years need not influence the Museum's decision.

Yours faithfully,  
F. E. MCWILLIAM,  
8A Holland Villas Road, W14.

## Lead pollution

From the President of the Institution of Environmental Health Officers

Sir, In the understandable interest in lead in petrol and the need to reduce it or phase it out, it must not be overlooked that the problem of multi-source pollution. Lead in Drinking Water, it was shown that in Great Britain 9 per cent of household samples had lead concentrations exceeding the World Health Organisation recommended maximum limit, a limit itself twice as high as a proposed EEC limit.

In the United States lead-based paint is regarded as the most important high-dose source of lead and the most common cause of serious lead poisoning in children. Regular child screening programmes are carried out and in 1980 507,825 children were screened and 26,519 required a diagnostic evaluation for lead toxicity. During the same year 16,408 dwellings were inspected and 11,991 found with a lead hazard. This work is facilitated by the use of cheap, small, portable equipment for the detection of lead in paint — equipment designed in the United States but not available in this country.

It is essential that every step should be taken to reduce all sources of environmental lead and most urgently those sources most likely to affect the critical group in the population, namely the pre-school child. But campaigns need to be reinforced by positive action. This screening campaigns of pre-school children, especially those living in the inner-city areas, followed up by medical and

detailed environmental investigation and intervention in the case of each child exhibiting elevated blood lead levels.

The work needs to be supplemented by an educational campaign for health workers, housing officers and parents to discuss the total lead problem and the steps which can be taken to protect the public, and not least the young child. The Institution of Environmental Health Officers is planning a series of seminars for this purpose.

Yours faithfully,  
A. ARCHER, President,  
The Institution of Environmental Health Officers,  
Chadwick House,  
Rushworth Street, SE1.

flexible indeed

From Mr Christopher Cutting

Sir, The phrase "some flexibility around the eight-hour day" is a somewhat ambiguous one. The commonly held view is that it supports British Rail's case — the adverb "around" is regarded as qualifying "eight" (and meaning in this context "approximately") thereby justifying calls for shifts of between seven and nine hours.

However, the more natural interpretation favours Aslef's case: "around" is a preposition which applies to the phrase "eight-hour day" in the sense in which one builds a wall "around" a house. In this sense the eight-hour day is to remain intact and any flexibility has to be built "around" this fact.

The only question which remains is whether this ambiguity (which could not exist in French or German) crept in by accident or design.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER CUTTING,  
11 Old Square,  
Lincoln's Inn, WC2,  
February 17.

Enduring Latin

From Dr M. A. Halls

Sir, Your leading article of last Saturday (February 13), "Finis Coronae Opus", justly acclaims the completion of a great dictionary. As you say, the work done by these fascicles has been done to last.

It would, however, be profoundly regrettable were this magnificent work to be, as you predict, the last Oxford Latin Dictionary. It has defined the usage and vocabulary of Classical Latin, and only on this foundation could we hope to see a worthy, and valuable, successor: an (Oxford?) Dictionary of the Latin of the Middle Ages and Renaissance. That hope now awakens.

Latin may, as you say, Sir, be a dead language (though it seems unreal to apply the familiar, spectral metaphor to the words cited in the fascicles before us), but Augustine and Claudian, Erasmus and Milton bear witness that it did not, at any rate, die with Ulpian.

I am, Sir,  
Yours, etc.,  
MICHAEL HALLS,  
6 Clare Street,  
Cambridge.

Collectors' items

From Dr Carol Varlaam

Sir, You have brightened my day immeasurably. I was unaware until now that nineteenth-century Iceland was "totally uninhabited... and always had been, apart from a few Irish hermit-monks." (Special Report, February 17). Such a pearl of historical wisdom makes a welcome change to the gloom of current affairs.

Yours sincerely,  
CAROL VARLAAM,  
2 Ellerton Road, SW18,  
February 17.

From Mr Colin Mursion Small

Sir, I read with interest in today's issue (February 18) that Sir Rayner feels that there is scope for reduction in Civil Service paperwork and that "after months of pouring over the intricacies of the forms selected, the civil servants found that about a quarter could be abandoned".

Pouring? Tea, I presume?

Yours faithfully,  
COLIN MURISON SMALL,  
21 Burgrave Road, SE24,  
February 18.

The maple leaf forever

From Mr Mark Phillips

Sir, Embarrassing as it may be to have one's constitutional laundry washed in Westminster waters (clean though the Thames might be these days), one does get rather weary of the paternalistic cheap shots published in the quality press from Shropshire to Shropshire (the reader will take the point).

While it is true many an idle hour could be passed searching for Great Canadians in history, as Mr Frank Johnson suggests (article, February 18), it does take one's mind off the current mess resulting from the efforts of modern British historic figures.

In the past months one has had

to endure sketches of classrooms of students falling asleep during Canadian history lectures, society matrons wondering how anyone wrote-tapping Canadians could stay awake and uncountable boring references to Canadians' inescapable boredom.

Still, I suppose it is something different to read about while sitting in the dark tunnels of the Northern Line, waiting for the Camden Town junction to be sorted out... just as soon as whoever's supposed to do that has finished his tea.

You're all a bunch of hosers. Take off, eh!

Yours, etc.,  
MARK PHILLIPS, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation,  
43/51 Great Titchfield Street, W1,  
February 18.

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Travel/edited by Shona Crawford Poole

Jamaica/Michael Watkins

## Slow and stop in the sun

Years ago, on my first visit to Jamaica, I used to watch a man outside the house where I was staying. He was sitting under a cassia tree. One bare foot rested on the other knee and he had put his straw hat under his head for a pillow. He wasn't selling anything and he wasn't waiting for a bus, and it irritated me that he remained so long, so uselessly. Now, as an old Jamaican hand, I know the answer. He was sitting. And maybe thinking a little. And when he got around to it, he'd get up and go away.

Caribbean lifestyle operates at two speeds: slow and stop. To accept this is to preserve sanity, to reject it invites trauma. "Soon come", they say when you ask for breakfast/laundry. It's rented car — and never come at all. The telephone rings two thousand times before

anyone replies; then it's the wrong number. Electricity does eccentric things, like going out. Strange insects roam the bathroom floor. There are further insects, "No-see-ums" and "Momm-pumps", small aeronautical creatures designed by our Heavenly Father to make us think better of mosquitoes.

It is not so much an intrinsic laziness or inefficiency as an adroitly sculptured way of life. A "boonoonoonoos" way of life, "delightful", "marvellous" in Jamaican talk. There is only one way — go along with it or stay away.

I had stayed away too long. There has been trouble in Jamaica and I, along with the majority of regular visitors, had been too faint of heart to take a chance. In self-defence, it was quite a chance: gun murders, particularly in

the capital of Kingston, were a daily occurrence. Michael Manley, Prime Minister at the time, was accused of being a power-crazed totalitarian bent on delivering his country into the communist camp. The amber warning light glowed and Jamaica's powerful middle class tried to make a getaway. Foreign investment dried up; so too did tourism. It was said that many Jamaicans stole to survive.

Then, on October 30 1980, Edward Seaga, leader of the Jamaican Labour Party, was swept into power; since then he has convinced the world that the flirtation with Castro is at an end, that free enterprise reigns. More recently he has severed diplomatic relations with Cuba. Jamaicans began to smile again. "Smile", runs the full page advertising campaign in *The Daily Gleaner*, "it makes you better looking". So it does. It is also immensely reassuring when one returns, apprehensively, to the place you love.

Port Antonio was my first Jamaican love. First love and other sorrows. We swam in bottomless Blue Lagoon and rafted along the Rio Grande. Errol Flynn started the rafting craze, and he built a house called Castle Comfort high on a hill where his widow, Patricia, still lives. At Christ Church the tower clock read 4.30 all day long and Mrs Petersen, black and handsome and old even then, sat in her rocking chair, last pew on the right. John Crow, the cartoon vulture, wheeled above the forest, carried on the Undertaker's Wind; "duppies", ghosts who live in cotton trees, came out at night; the local "obeah-man" still worked in magic potions. People walked with the swinging boneless grace of panthers. Nothing much has changed in Port Antonio.

At Port Maria, in a house named Firefly Hill, Noel Coward perched in his mountain eyrie, bandaged in cigarette smoke, thinking beautiful thoughts. "Dear Boy", he said to me once, "pour me a ginger ale — simply riddled with brandy."

Still heading west along this north coast is Ocho Rios and two of my favourite hotels in the world, Plantation Inn and Jamaica Inn, where the scent of hibiscus and bougainvillea is in the air, and ackee and saltfish, pumpkin soup and cho-cho are on the menu. Here you can climb Dunn's River Falls, spectacular waterfalls that cascade on to the sands; and here, as the sun bloodies the horizon, you can drink rum punch, listen to the tree-trogs and thank whoever is in charge of these things that the warning lights have dimmed. We can return to

Jamaica; and that's a benediction in itself.

Ocho Rios is 67 miles from Montego Bay. You could drive straight there or you could leave the road for Arcadia which, arguably, is the most beautiful house on the island. It is owned by Heinz Simonitsch and he will not thank me for disclosing the fact. Rose Hall is easier to find; more sensational too, for it belonged to the White Witch, Anne Palmer, who got up to all manner of tricks with her slaves. Then the slaves tried a trick or two on their mistress, with the most bizarre result.

One could say perhaps that Montego Bay is like that. Sophisticated. Men wear off-the-shoulder dinner jackets; their wives dress glitteringly, like oil-rigs in the night. Tired women sunbathe at Doctor's Cave, killing time because they like it better dead. Wall-to-wall sunbathing, basted by the culinary juices of Ambre Solaire. But there's a superb retreat at Half Moon Club, owned by that same Heinz Simonitsch, where a cottage in the grounds is a moon-shot away from Throgmorton Street.

We are visitors in Negril, yet the trick of the place is that you are not made to feel so; you arrive and are manipulated into believing that you belong.

I am not saying that Negril is idyllic for those with advanced ideas on plumbing; what I do suggest is that it is here that you may come to grips with your host country, the tendency in the fleshpots of the globe is to merely acquiesce; the Negris are more demanding. Negril has young people (and not so young) who are exploring, experimenting, asking questions. Some a slave culture (illegally), some drink mushroom tea, a few become Rastafarians, get pregnant, run out of money. But all become better acquainted with Jamaica, which descends from a slave culture whose wounds went deep.

They have no good cause to like us; yet I believe they do. They have a way of looking at us with shy, indulgent smiles which come from a long way behind the eyes — a way of looking at us as if we, nor they, are the children. Sometimes I think they are right.

Air Florida flies from Gatwick to Montego Bay; their office is 3 Woodstock Street, London W1R 1BD. Tel: 01-491 7475. Excursion fares, (maximum stay of 21 days) cost from £330.39 return. Further details and bookings concerning hotels mentioned in this article through: Windotel, 149, Sloane Street, London SW1X 9SZ. Tel: 01-730 7144.



Lazing away in Kingston town

## Holiday discount news

Destination	Nights	Company	Price	Save	Conditions
SKIING					
Adelboden, Sw	7/1/b	Small World*	£159	£40	Feb 28
Courchevel, France	7/14 s/c	Holiday Villas	£129/152	£30/38*	Feb 27
Santa Caterina, Italy	7/14 t/b	Swans	£96/187	£50	Mar 6, 13, 20, 27
Val Gerole, Italy	7/14 t/b	Swans	£75/152	£50	Mar 6, 13, 20, 27
Zermatt, Switzerland	7/14 t/b	Ski West	£159/219	£66/90	Feb 27
Meribel, France	7/14 t/b	Ski West	£159/219	£60/100	Mar 6
Verbier, Switzerland	7/14 t/b	Ski West	£159/209	£46/86	Mar 6
Courmayeur	7/14 t/b	Ski West	£129/169	£38/85	Mar 13
Val d'Isere, France	7 h/b	Club Mark Warner	£199	£40	Feb 27
Meribel	7/1/b	Ski MacG	£223	£25	Mar 6
Verbier	7/1/b	Ski MacG	£211	£16	Mar 20
Meribel	14 t/b	Ski MacG	£314	£30	Mar 13, 20
Malta	7 h/b	Portland*	£135	£24	Mar 5, 12 Luton
Tunisia	7/1/b	Portland	£129	£16	Mar 5, 12 Luton
Costa Brava	7/14 t/b	Enterprise	£97/97	£30/40	Mar 6, 13, 20, 27
Costa Blanca	7/14 t/b	Enterprise	£97/118	£30/40	Feb 28
Malta	7/14 s/c	Enterprise	£111/120	£30/35	Mar 11, 18, 25
Madrid	4 b & b	Pegasus	£130	£20	Feb 28
Munich	3 b & b	Pegasus	£145	£15	Mar 5 Luton
St Lucia	29 b	Pegasus	£547.80	£60	Feb 27 Heathrow
Florence	4 b	Pegasus	£130	£30	Mar 8 Luton
Athens	7 b & b	Thomson	£121	£40	Feb 28 Luton
Salzburg	3 b & b	Thomson	£79	£44	Feb 26 Luton
Eilat, Israel (Red Sea)	7 s/c	Travel	£199	£69	Mar 7
Morocco Tour/Costa del Sol	14 t/b-h/b	Tjereborg	£211	£40	Mar 5, 12 Gatwick & Manchester

Flights are from Gatwick unless otherwise stated. All discounts are calculated on current brochure prices. \*May only be booked directly. Portland telephone 01-388 5111. Tjereborg 01-499 8678 and 061-236 9511

Philippa Toomey

## Jersey makes your money go round

A holiday in Jersey has always been really good value, but this year it's even better. Most of Jersey's hotels, guesthouses and holiday companies are holding prices at 1981 levels or better.

You find the value in cheerful family-run guesthouses and hotels alike. In the range of inclusive holidays at your travel agents. And every time you step outside into the sun.

You'll find low-cost drinks and VAT-free shopping. Inexpensive car hire and cheaper petrol. And remember, Jersey makes no charge for its wealth of scenic beauty, or its dazzling beaches. At night, the value goes on whether you dance, disco or merely dine.

Enchanted Jersey. So warm in its welcome.

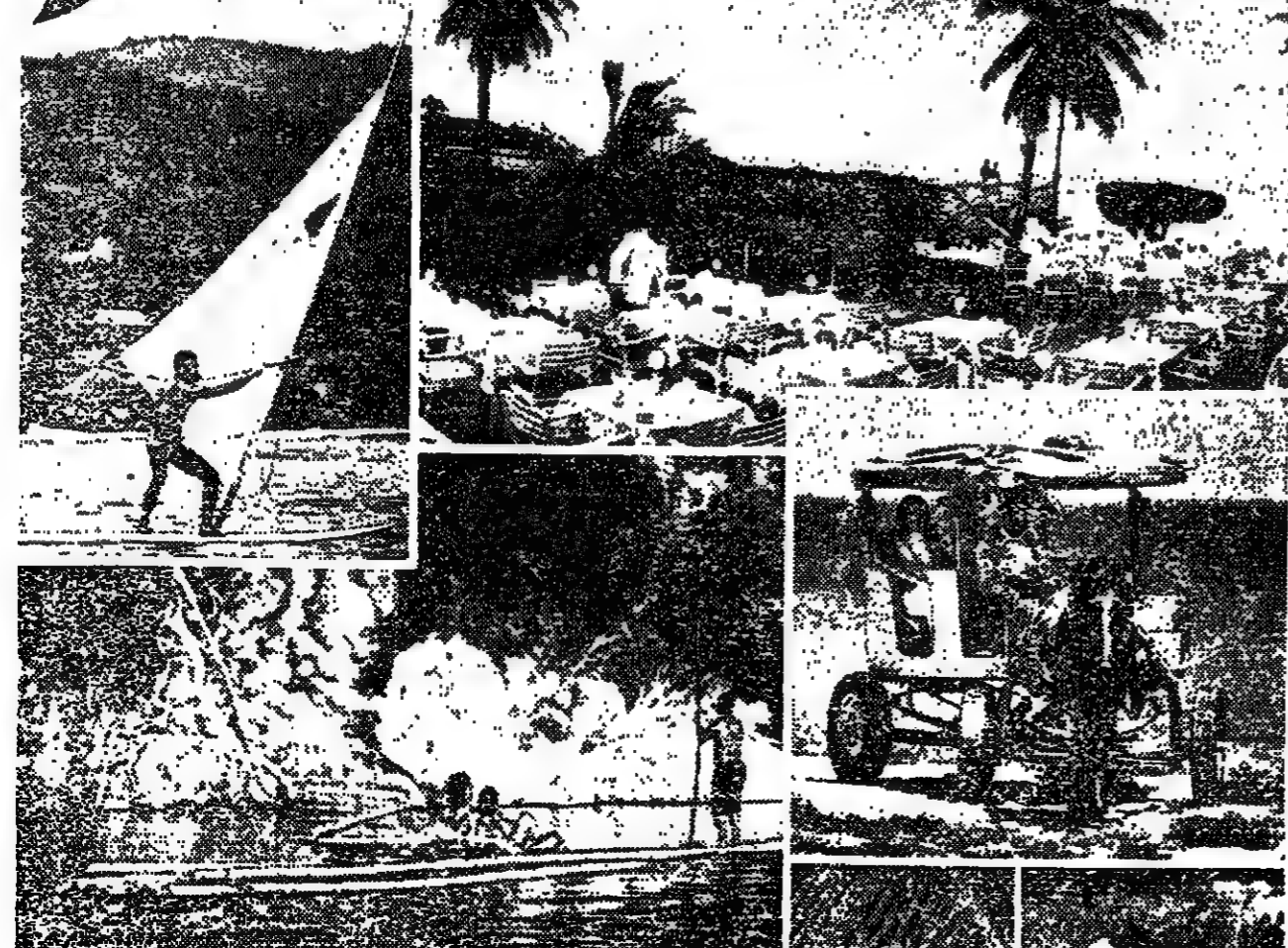
Ask your travel agent or send for free literature to: Dept. 112, Jersey Tourism, Weighbridge, St. Helier, Jersey C.I.

Jersey makes your money go round.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

# JAMAICA



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# Shoparound with Beryl Downing

## THE TIMES Guide to getting things mended

### Antiquities

London: (R) Anna Plowden Ltd, 39 High Street, Kingston upon Thames (01-549 6471). A team of 20 specializing in decorative arts and antiques — buried bronzes, uncrushing of metals, organ restoration. Also gilding, ceramics, terracotta, tortoiseshell, marble — "anything anybody else will do apart from fine pictures and porcelain". Minimum charge £25. Work for museums and collectors all over the world. Will collect in Central London or visit anywhere.

### Bookbinders

Berkshire: Rosalind Campbell, Buffers Bindery, Ascot Station (Ascot 28124). Antique and modern restoration from £20, full leather bindings — from £60; gold tooling; paper conservation can be arranged. Work done on Oxford College and Chatsworth. Visitors books and photographs albums made and restored. Will visit clients in London.  
The Eddington Bindery Ltd, Hungerford (04886 275). Any restoration and observation of all books from fifteenth-century paper washing and foxing. Special game books made from £180, morocco bound acting scrap books, personal racing silks from £30. Work done for museums and libraries. Can collect in London.  
Devon: Sydney Delow, Kerswell, Liverton, Newton Abbot (Bickington 611). Repairs, restiches, relines, replaces covers or renews. From £20 or minor repairs in a leather bound book. New gold tooling done, not old. Graduates' theses and magazines bound. Work done for Brighthelm museum. Visits within 50-mile radius.

Where do you go to get your handbag re-styled or your deckchairs re-covered? Who will get rid of your bookworm (the one that eats, not borrows), or re-line your cigar box? Who can mend your elephant's tusk or your favourite gun? Shoparound asked readers for their recommendations — for there is no better guide than a satisfied customer — and this directory is the result.

Thank you all for your tremendous response. The list I have chosen cannot possibly be comprehensive — that would

take several pages — but I have tried to make it wide-ranging and widespread.

There were so many recommendations of china and furniture restorers and experts in cane and rush seating that these will be included in part two of the guide, next week. Also included will be restorers of textiles and lace, Oriental carpets, pearls and beads — even baths and violins.

Readers' recommendations are marked (R), the rest have been sent in by the restorers themselves, but in both cases I have contacted everyone personally.

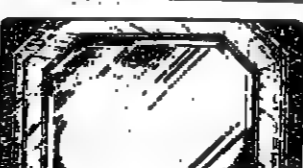
London: Caroline Bendix, 1 Elm Park Road, SW3 (01-352 0429). Restoration of books and paper, gold tooling, new bindings, presentation copies. Visitors books rebound from £35. Visits in and around London. Telephone first for appointment.  
(R) BookEnds Bindery, 18 Ockendon Road, N7 (01-607 0511). All restoration and repair of antiquarian and modern books. Repair of paper. Gold tooling. Work done for colleges and museums. Full leather bindings from £55.

electric or battery clocks. Also furniture restoration, French polishing, upholstery and cane repairs. Will collect in Glasgow area.

Somerset: (R) Terence Morris, 11 Fairwell Street, Bruton, (01498 3446). All old clocks (not watches) in case, bracket and carriage. From £45 to £120, approximately. Also furniture restoration, repairs to veneer, brass, inlay, French polishing and oil polishing. Will collect within 50 miles.

Sussex: (R) Mainly Clocks, 39 Tarrant Street, Arundel, (Arundel 882871). Robert Baresford specializes in clocks, watches and musical boxes but will turn his hand to almost anything mechanical, like converting Victorian coin op toys to take 2p pieces. Mends "anything not completely derelict because I don't like to be beaten". Work done for Arundel Museum. Will travel within 70 to 80 miles.

### Giltwood and Lacquer



London: Belinda Balfour, 2 Wallgrave Road, SW5 (01-373 7358). Lacquer and gilding on furniture, not frames, particularly 18th century gesso and antique japanned furniture. Some travelling. Will restore large pieces in situ.  
(R) Ferec Toth, 3 Cherubini Lane, S. Francois Laverne, 598a King's Road, (01-731 2063). Restoring of all antique mirrors in any condition, furniture and carvings. Regilding, recarving. Lacquer, special crackle finish. Marbelling, tortoiseshell, rag rolling; lacquering in original japanning technique and special finishes. Framing with own mouldings. Will collect and deliver anywhere.  
(R) The English Lacquer Shop, 81 Marchmont Street, WC1 (01-380 1483). All types of lacquer restoration undertaken. From filling in chips to "major surgery" — stripping completely and re-lacquering to original design. Small items to be brought in. Restorer will visit from Kent workshop to give estimates on larger pieces. Nothing too small or too big.

Surrey: St Barbe Restoration & Antiques Centre, Old Bakehouse Yard, Petworth Road, Haslemere, (Haslemere 52429). Water gilding, oil gilding, lacquer and papier mache restoration. Cabinet making and mother-of-pearl boxes, china, lace, pictures. Delivery within 50 miles. Can travel anywhere.

### Glass

London: Annie Ross, Space Studios, Lower Road, Rotherhithe, SE16 (01-237 4430 or 981 3575). Stained glass repair and restoration including re-leading and hand painting in old Victorian techniques. Arrangements made for etching and sandblasting. Everything from front door panels to windows. Costs around £25 per sq. ft. Will travel.  
Living Art, 35 Kenway Road, SW5, (01-370 2766). Chips on glass removed, antique glass repaired, silver collars put on decanters. Also china and clock mending, gilding and lacquering, bookbinding. Tuesday to Friday, 1.30pm to 6.30pm, Saturday 10am to 4pm.

### Guns

Somerset: (R) A. W. Rule, 8 Parrett Close, Langport, (0458 250649). Servicing and repair of quality guns by a Furey trained gunsmith. Work done for the county. Take some time, substitute guns are loaned to clients.

### Handbags and Luggage

London: (R) Handbag Services Co, 16 Beauchamp Place, SW3, (01-589 4975). All leather handbag repairs from £2. Crocodile a specialty. Best point made into handbags. Some small luggage repairs — zips, handles. Mail order service anywhere.  
Mayfair Trunks, 3 Shepherd Street, W1, (01-499 2620). Repairs to all types of luggage — handles, frames, zips, tears in leather, locks, briefcases. From £5. No delivery.

### Ivory and inlay

Dorset: (R) N. Blades, The Workshop, 21 Princess Street, Dorchester (0305 68659). Restoration of ivory, small ornaments and mirror frames. Clock cases a specialty. Also mends fishing rods and walking sticks. Can arrange for repairs to china, silver, metalwork and cane. No travelling, but contact in London will act as a go between.  
Shenstone Restorations, 135 Croft Road, Swindon, (Swindon 44980). Blair and Caroline Shenstone restore ivory, mother-of-pearl, tortoiseshell, ebony and other woods, specializing in ivory and marquetry. Anything from tea caddies and carved chess sets to chairs and tables. Also caning and rush seating from £20. Work done for dealers. Will travel within 30 mile radius and makes monthly visits to London.

### Metalwork

Hertfordshire: Iron Things, 2 Hatfield Road, St Albans, (St Albans 68432). Will undertake almost anything made out of metal — "if it needs repairing we'll try to do it." Includes fire baskets, dog irons, wrought iron gates to re-bottoming, coalscuttles and re-tinning saucepans. Charges are about £3 per hour, but the cost of the work is extra. No travelling. Kent: (R) Melvyn Pinnock, 4 St. Martin's Avenue, Canterbury (0227 63279). Works in any metal but pewter. Copies of brass handles and ornaments, ironwork restoration, hinges on hardswords — "no job is too small". Reliable and reasonably priced, says one of his clients. Works mainly in the Kent area.

### Plasterwork

Avon: Hayles & Howe, 37 Picton Street, Montpellier, Bristol, (0272 46673). All types of ornamental plaster — ceiling roses from £15, cornices, niches, fire surrounds. New and restoration work. Will travel anywhere.

### Rocking Horses

Oxfordshire: Sarah Bromlow, 180 Reading Road, Henley-on-Thames, (049 12 77001). Repair and restoration of rocking horses in any state of dilapidation using metal horseshoes and leather and painting in Victorian style. Will travel in south east and south west.

### Rope

Yorkshire: W. R. Outhwaite & Son, Town Foot, Hawes, North Yorks. (Hawes 487). Mostly rope makers but will make stair ropes with brass brackets; but will repair church bell ropes from about £16 per foot.

### Stone

Northamptonshire: (R) Harrison Ltd., Little Oakley Church, Nr. Corby, (0536 743876). Conservation, mainly of statues, including garden statues and church monuments. Stone, marble, alabaster, terracotta, stucco. Work for stately homes. Minimum charge of £20. Distance no object.

### Silver, gold pewter

Devon: Silver Services, Corner Lane, Combe Martin, North Devon (0271-88 3361). Antique silver and gold restoration. Re-line cigar boxes, re-velvet jewel boxes, re-set photograph frames, re-load candelabra, re-back hand mirrors. Ivory insulations on tea and coffee pots. Pewter repairs. Will travel.

Herefordshire: Timothy Blades, 54 High Street, Ross-on-Wye, (0989 64560). Repairs to small antique jewelry, Victorian scissor handles, pearl re-stringing, stone re-setting. Metalwork on violin bows a specialty. Likes to tackle unusual things — "I get a kick out of doing things people say can't be mended." No travel.

London: The Pewter Shop, 18 Burlington Arcade, W1, (01-493 1730). All types of antique and modern pewter restored by registered pewterers of general fertilizers, handles, feet from original cast moulds. Polishing, removal of silver plate on pewter. Small items from £6, larger from £10. No travel.  
Oxfordshire: Brenton West, 5 Park Lane, East Lockinge, Wantage, (East Hendred 754). Works mainly in silver, some gold. Jewelry repairs (not claw settings), makes tops for salt cellars, ink stands. Three Goldsmiths awards for chasing and silversmithing. Area — anywhere in Oxon.

### Tents

Surrey: (R) Atlas Display (Tent Hire Ltd), Avon Path, Avondale Road, South Croxson, (01-630 0357). Repair of scouting and other types of tents, removes mildew and will also re-canvas deck chairs and repair awnings.

### Umbrellas

London: (R) James Smith, 55 Oxford Street, WC1 (01-636 4731). English umbrellas only. New ribs from £2, ferrules from 80p, wood ends from £1. Handles from £2 plastic, £6 lacquered to £100 ivory. No visits, no postal service.

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## Drinks/Pamela Vandyke Price Pre-budget finds

It is rightly advised that one should always "drink slightly more expensively than one can afford" because in this way adequately high standards are formed. The persons who limit themselves to middle-range wines tend to have middle-range notions about what good wine is, whereas those who vary modestly-priced bottles with the occasional wine that is, even on a small scale, very good indeed within its class, will at least have their palates tuned to appreciate the best when it is available.

It should be realized, in this pre-budget period, that because at least £1.20 of the price of any bottle, cheap or costly, has nothing to do with the wine, even a slight extra — say, 20p to 30p — can bring enjoyment in terms of quality out of all proportion to cost. The £1.20 is made up from the cost of bottle, cork, label, any additional label, capsule, insurance, freight, duty, keeping, delivery, any handling charges at point of sale and, of course, VAT. If delivery has to be added, outside a region where merchants can provide this free, then at least 3p per case will have to be costed in, frequently more. So for putting away for consumption later this year, it is worth buying wines that will not get cheaper and — do offer special enjoyment.

Many merchants have decided to hold end of bin and remnant "sales", so definite price cuts can be seen on their mailing lists. There are oddments which the private grower can find in the price range of about £5 which a St Estephe property whose owner has won great respect for his practice of vinifying a small amount of the different grapes separately each year, so that students and fortunate visitors can see the

"landing age", so the purchase of this, to put away for six months or so, will result in a marked emergence of quality.

Then there are the wines that, for various reasons, have been overshadowed by others, such as the 1977 clarets, at a possible opening disadvantage because they came after the fine 1975s, 1976s and before the 1978s. Laytons (27 Midland Road, NW1) have just issued an appraisal of what they call this "lost" vintage, having bought a careful selection.

These clarets are not imposing — they are beginning to be pleasant, providing the sort of drinking that is much appreciated at lunchtime, or to introduce a weighted wine at dinner. Laytons issue detailed tasting notes on their wines. Of these the Cos d'Estournel (1977) is a very fine and firm, displaying the craftsmanship of this property, the Figeac (1979) opening up with assertive style, and the red Graves, Domaine de Chevalier (1979), very much a "claret-lover's claret", displaying the spicy fragrance of the Graves, and compact style, seem especially worth trying. There is an assorted case of the twelve 1977s for £82.

Too much emphasis tends to be laid today on "known names", but, perhaps because some of the bourgeois growers have had to "try harder", many of them offer admirable wines that I would prefer to certain classed growths in certain years. Peter Dominie, who has the 1977 Chateau de Pez, a St Estephe property whose owner has won great respect for his practice of vinifying a small amount of the different grapes separately each year, so that students and fortunate visitors can see the

contribution each makes, and how the final blend is triumphantly harmonious.

The 1977 is a little lightweight but drinkers who may have found St Estephe wines rather hard, as far as some of the classed growths are concerned, will appreciate the amiability of this one, already offering much enjoyment (it costs £5.10). Another first-rate bottle is the La Tour de By, A.C. Medoc; from the tower there is a superb view of the Gironde estuary and the owner has concentrated on adjusting both the proportions of the grapes he grows and his vinifications to the somewhat exposed site.

The 1976 La Tour de By is a really fine wine, deep, beginning to demonstrate its fruit and possessing much charm — it is hard to see how it can get better, but it definitely hasn't yet reached its peak. (£5.52 from branches of Penning & Cawson in East Anglia. They also have the beautiful, but by no means ready 1975 Margaux, Chateau d'Angludet for £6.16 — to put away for next year at earliest and to relish for its profundity and charm).

Finally, a Coteaux Champenois, the Blanc de Chardonnay of Ruinart, oldest of the Champagne houses still making wine. It costs £6.50 (from Russell & McIver, The Rectory, St. Mary-St. Hill, EC3). The still wines of Champagne can also be hard and, I sometimes think, are over-priced. This one, which is made only from the Chardonnay, at its ripe best, can give without concealing a sweetness. This wine is delicious as an aperitif and is also sufficiently robust to be drunk with smoked salmon or, certainly, to be the white wine to go through a meal of spring lamb, veal, or roast chicken for those who cannot easily drink red.

## Gardening/Roy Hay

## Spread a little tonic

□ We should now be thinking about the state of our soil after the above average rainfall of 1981. Plant nutrients are washed down to lower levels out of reach of plants' roots by excessive rainfall, lime and nitrogen particularly quickly. So gardeners on acid soil who normally apply lime would be advised this year to step up their rate of application by half.

Nitrogen, applied most often in the form of generous doses of sulphate of ammonia, will be doubly welcome to many plants this year — partly to compensate for the leaching and also to speed recovery from the recent frosts. A dressing of one or two ounces of sulphate of ammonia to the square yard for hardy flowers, vegetables, fruit trees and bushes and lawns would be helpful in addition to the general fertilizers that one would normally apply.

There is no great hurry to apply these nitrogenous fertilizers — the plants will not make much use of them until the weather warms up — to about 43 deg F. usually mid-March onwards, when active growth begins.

The recovery of plants weakened by the prolonged winter spell will also be helped by an application of phosphate to stimulate root growth. One can apply a general fertilizer rich in phosphates such as Phostrogen or, if one prefers an organic fertilizer, there are several on the market, one of my favourites being the blood, bone and fish compound available in good garden stores. Or it may be had direct from A. W. Maskell, Stephenson Street, London E16 4SA, who offer a range of straight fertilizers and fertilizers compounded for various purposes.

Leaf feeding also encourages root growth. I start watering foliage feeds on to the leaves very early, to the foliage of daffodils and other bulbs as soon as they have finished flowering and to other plants as soon as they have produced a good area of leaf.

□ This year it will really pay to analyse the soil in

various parts of the garden and it is fortuitous that the new, sophisticated but simple to use J. Arthur Bower's soil testing kit has just appeared. It makes more than 50 tests for pH (acidity/alkalinity), nitrogen, phosphorous and potash and the instructions indicate the amounts of the various chemicals needed if there are any deficiencies. It is available in garden shops at a price of £5.95, including postage, from Squire Hobbies, Brayford Pool, Lincoln.

I well remember how staggered I was by the various deficiencies revealed by the first tests I ever did in my garden. The first "do it yourself" amateur kit, I thought I had been treating the soil generously enough with manures and fertilizers so I sent samples to professional analysts who confirmed within very narrow differences my original tests.

We took a deep breath, bought the necessary amounts of fertilizer: indicated by the tests and were amazed by the results that year and in subsequent years when we carried out tests and applied the indicated fertilizers. Many gardeners fail to get their hoped for results simply because their soil is short of one or more of the essential plant foods.

□ My recent comments about big tomatoes brought a number of letters from readers, mostly endorsing my appreciation of the very largest, which may weigh anything from 1-2lb each. They agreed that these are the best for stuffing — a dish we see too rarely in British restaurants — and that the flavour of the "Marmande" variety — for growing outdoors only — is excellent.

Now we have "Furel" (3) a "Marmande" type F1 hybrid said to be much earlier and more vigorous than other "Marmande" types, giving heavy crops of good flavour.

In cold areas where tomatoes have to be grown under glass "Big Boy" (3,4) is the one to grow.

There have been several introductions of miniature tomatoes, plants that grow only a foot or so high and are thus suitable for growing on

a balcony, patio or even for pot culture on an office or kitchen windowsill. Most have not performed outstandingly with me but "Mimibub" (1,4) is well spoken of by friends who have grown it.

While not perhaps being heavy croppers, or enjoying resistance to diseases, I would always grow the golden tomatoes such as "Golden Sunrise" (1,2,3) for their flavour alone. It is too sweet for some people but I think it is suitable for growing under glass or outdoors.

Sources: (1) Dobbies, (2) Suttons, (3) Thompson & Morgan, (4) Urwin's Seeds.

□ I mentioned recently that we could always grow some mustard and cress for a bit of greenstuff in our diet until the first of the summer vegetables come to harvest in May or June. If you frequent Chinese restaurants I am sure you will have made the acquaintance of Mung bean sprouts. These are really first class. It is suitable for growing under glass or outdoors.

They are crisp and tasty and may be grown indoors in glass jars ready for eating from four to nine days after sowing. All the firms mentioned above offer these seeds with instructions for sowing. Incidentally, I don't know if this applies elsewhere, but in our part of the world we can only buy mustard in the vegetable shops — cress seeds to have disappeared. I wonder why.

□ The City of London Society now has a worldwide membership and is arranging, in conjunction with the University of London, Department of Education, a study conference at Westfield College, University of London, from April 1 to 3. Those taking part, members and non-members, may be fully resident or non-resident. A full programme has been arranged and particulars may be obtained from Room 255 (E.M.C./R.H.B.), University of London, Department of Extra Mural Studies, 26, Russell Square, London, WC1B 5DQ. (Tel 01-636 8000 ext. 104).

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## The Times Cook/Shona Crawford Poole

## Light last fling

In the days when Lent was more rigorously observed than is generally the case now, eggs and butter were forbidden throughout the fast. Then Shrove Tuesday, with its pancakes and races, was a final fling, an occasion for working off high spirits as well as surplus stores.

There were pancakes about in medieval England and by the seventeenth century elaborate recipes were in circulation. Rebecca Price, wife of a country squire in the reign of Charles II, copied out this receipt given to her by a Mrs Whitehead:

"Take a pint of cream and the yolks of ten eggs; and ye white of two; four spoonfuls of sack; and 2 of rose water, a little nutmeg grated; beat all these together with a little flower very fine; the pan must first be rubbed with a little butter, and after dried with a clean cloth; before you put in your stuff, make your pan very hot otherwise they will leave too light; and not bake so well; you may fry 'em with butter, or without."

Half a pint of milk and one egg seems rather a come-down after such richness.

## Pancake

## Makes Twelve

110 g (4 oz) plain white or wholemeal flour

¼ teaspoon salt

1 large egg, beaten

300 ml (½ pint) milk

1 tablespoon oil, preferably sunflower or peanut

Sift the flour and salt into a bowl and make a well in the centre. Add the egg and half the milk and mix from the centre, gradually drawing in the flour to make a smooth, thick batter. Add the remaining milk and oil and beat lightly until the batter is smooth again.

Beating the batter develops the gluten in the flour making the mixture elastic and unwilling to run smooth, and over the pan. Because wholemeal has less gluten than white flour, a batter made with it can be used immediately.

Batter made with white flour should be rested for about half an hour. Either type may be thinned by



adding more milk so make thinner pancakes.

To cook the pancakes use a small heavy pan about 15 cm (6 in) diameter. An omelette pan is best if you do not have a pancake pan. Heat the pan well and grease it lightly. Pour about two tablespoons of batter into the centre of the pan and quickly swirl the batter to the edges by tipping the pan. Cook the pancake until the underside is golden, then turn it and cook the other side.

Cook the rest of the batter in the same way and stack the pancakes on a covered plate over a pan of hot water to keep warm.

Serve them sprinkled with lemon juice and sugar and rolled, or fill them with another sweet or savoury stuffing.

## Apple and honey pancakes

Serves six

450g (1lb) crisp dessert apples, preferably Coxes

## 55g (2oz) butter

6 tablespoons honey

1 tablespoon lemon juice

12 freshly made pancakes

2 tablespoons icing sugar

Peel, core and quarter the apples and cut them into thick slices. Melt the butter in a frying pan and when it foams add the apples. Fry them gently until they are tender and just beginning to brown. Add the honey and lemon juice and cook for a moment longer.

Divide the apple mixture between the pancakes. Roll them up and dust the tops with icing sugar. Serve hot or warm, just as they are, or with plain yogurt or cream.

## Lemon cheese pancakes

Serves four

225 g (8 oz) smooth fresh curd or cream cheese

1 egg, separated

55 g (2 oz) sugar

3 drops vanilla essence

1 tablespoon finely grated lemon zest

8 freshly made pancakes

2 tablespoons icing sugar

Home-made yogurt curd cheese is particularly good in this recipe and much less rich than full cream cheese.

To make the amount required, beat 600 warm serving natural yogurt to make it runny, and pour it into a sieve lined with damp muslin or cheese cloth. Knot the corners and hang the bag over a bowl for at least four hours overnight. This thickens and dries the yogurt which can now be used in many recipes calling for cream cheese.

Combine the cheese, egg yolk, sugar, vanilla essence and lemon zest and beat well together. Whisk the egg white until it holds firm peaks and fold it into the cheese mixture.

Divide the lemon cheese between the pancakes and roll them up. Arrange the pancakes on a covered plate over a pan of hot water to keep warm. Serve immediately.

There are too many books written about bridge. As some publishers have already learned to their cost, there are certainly too many indifferent or downright bad bridge books. It is all the more pleasing to receive Martin Hoffman's eagerly awaited first book, *Hoffman on Bridge* (Faber £5.95) which is a very good book indeed.

Hoffman, who was born in Czechoslovakia, is as jaunty as a sparrow, with an infectious enthusiasm for the game. Wherever there is a big pairs tournament, you will find him, usually winning, invariably entertaining his audience with his anecdotes and an apparently inexhaustible repertoire of bridge hands. He admits with amusement that not all experts enjoy conversations entirely devoted to bridge hands.

This statement reminded me vividly of my experience when I played with Harrison Gray in the World Pairs in Cannes in 1962. We were both staying in the same small hotel. Gray was a "hands"

man. I am not. After some horse-bartering, we reached a compromise. At dinner, "hands" until the pudding. Gray struggled manfully to keep his side of the bargain, but his pain was so obvious that even Shylock might have relented. The embargo was modified to last no longer than the hors d'oeuvres. Hoffman would have found even this a particularly vital quality for the winning pairs player. There is no doubt that the slightest flicker of indecision by an unwary opponent is sufficient to allow Hoffman to swoop with deadly accuracy.

Despite the title, the book is not dedicated to the discussion of those mathematical niceties which many believe are the essence of the pairs game. It is the coherent statement of one outstanding bridge player's philosophy. Hoffman describes 60 hands, including many that he played or defended himself. In addition to analysing the particular point to remember, there is an instructive format, because the lesson of one hand can often be applicable to a number of others; see left.

Let Hoffman take up the story. "I was fairly sure that West was 3-4-4-2 and I placed him with the ♠10 because with ♠Kxxx he would not have covered the ♠Q on the third round. So what could I do to avoid losing two more tricks?

This example of an unusual play is sub-titled "Catching a Lurker."

W N E S  
♠ A 9 8 7  
♥ A J 10 9 8 7  
♦ A 10 9 8 7  
♣ A 10 9 8 7  
W 10 9 8 7  
N 10 9 8 7  
E 10 9 8 7  
S 10 9 8 7  
Opening lead ♠9.

## Chess/Harry Golombek

## The mighty midgets

Boy prodigies are as recurrent a phenomenon in chess as they are in music or mathematics. In all three spheres their future is quite unpredictable. There is even the possibility that they may die young, like Gordon Crown and Ian Wells.

Some become world champions, like Capablanca or Bobby Fischer, or to go back to the pre-war champions are Paul Morphy, or even earlier, Ercole del Rio, who so impressed Ruy Lopez when the great Spaniard visited Italy in 1560.

A number dwindle into obscurity. Others do become grandmasters but don't quite manage to fulfil their early promise. Obvious examples of this type are Sammy Reshevsky and Artur Ponnar, both of them very small, which may well explain how Sammy seemed to remain

eight years of age for at least six years and why Arturito's age seemed to be fixed at 14 for five years at least. Perhaps, as the metaphysical poets might have put it, their "vegetable love" for chess may have been responsible.

But, amid all the doubts and the chronological uncertainties, one thing is certain. No one ever became a world champion without manifesting signs of immense powers when young.

I remember being invited to attend an international open chess congress at Dublin during Easter 1976 to give a series of demonstration talks about the American Herman. The situation is even more confusing in that Herman did originate in Hungary and played in the Budapest tournament under the name of H. Stoner.

This incident is told in a book (*Nigel Short: Chess Prodigy* by David Short, Faber & Faber, £7.95; paperback £3.95) on Nigel written by his father and published last October. It contains 67 of his games, analysed by George Botvinnik and also by himself.

It has been edited by Leonard Barden, who seems to have noticed Nigel's promise even a couple of years before I did.

The notes are well done and the choice of games is excellent. There is, however, one error which I must scotch before it becomes the sort of quarter-truth which we journalists are wont to cherish. The Steiner who fell into the trap in the Ruy Lopez at the 1929 Budapest tournament against Capablanca was not the Hungarian master, Andreas Steiner, but the American Herman.

An interesting example of the tactical powers of the boy prodigy is the following game he played at the world junior championship at Dortmund in 1980 where he came second to the great Harry Kasparov.

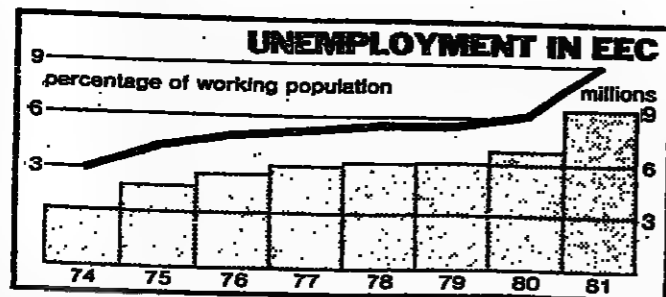
White: Ralf Akesson (Sweden). Black: Nigel Short (Owen's Defence).

1 ♠d4 ♠g6  
2 ♠f3 ♠b7  
3 ♠c3 ♠b6  
4 ♠d3 ♠b4  
5 ♠f4 ♠b3

White has to sacrifice a whole Rook here since after 9 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 10 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 11 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 12 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 13 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 14 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 15 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 16 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 17 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 18 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 19 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 20 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 21 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 22 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 23 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 24 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 25 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 26 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 27 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 28 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 29 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 30 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 31 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 32 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 33 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 34 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 35 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 36 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 37 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 38 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 39 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 40 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 41 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 42 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 43 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 44 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 45 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 46 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 47 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 48 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 49 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 50 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 51 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 52 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 53 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 54 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 55 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 56 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 57 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 58 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 59 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 60 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 61 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 62 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 63 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 64 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 65 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 66 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 67 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 68 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 69 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 70 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 71 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 72 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 73 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 74 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 75 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 76 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 77 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 78 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 79 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 80 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 81 ♠xh3 ♠xh3 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## BUSINESS NEWS

## Jobless record



January unemployment in the European Community climbed to a record 9.5 per cent, or 10.8 million workers, from 9.1 per cent and 10.3 million in December. It was the seventh consecutive month that average unemployment in the EEC rose to a post-war high. A year earlier the jobless rate was 7.5 per cent or 8.5 million people.

## Steel pricing optimism

Insufficient evidence will quash the remaining 38 cases of unfair pricing still outstanding in the United States against European steelmakers, the European Commission said yesterday. Its statement came after the United States International Trade Commission decided there was insufficient evidence of injury against United States steelmakers in 54 out of 92 cases. The commission said it would continue to watch over the remaining cases to ensure the GATT rules were strictly observed.

## British Gas briefs staff

British Gas has put off announcing its planned 23 per cent increase in domestic gas charges until early next week, in order to have more time to brief staff at its 800 showrooms on the need for the higher tariffs, the corporation said yesterday. The decision follows complaints by consumers about the increases, scheduled to be introduced in two stages, a 12 per cent increase in April and 10 per cent in October.

## Australian deal for De Beers

De Beers, the South African mining company which dominates the world diamond business, will market stones from the huge Argyle deposit in Western Australia if negotiations between the Central Selling Organisation and the partners in the Ashton Joint Venture, which owns Argyle, are successful.

Agreement would run from 1985, when production from the pipe AK-1 is expected to start. The CSO will sell all the gem stones and 75 per cent of the rest of the output.

## OECD summit

Finance Ministers of the 24 member nations of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) will meet in Paris on May 10 and 11.

## MARKET SUMMARY

## Flurry in TV shares

## LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 562.3 up 0.1  
FT 100s 86.19 up 0.64  
FT 200s 325.51 up 0.42  
Bargains 16,991

Television shares dominated what little interest remained yesterday after a speech by Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister of Information Technology, at the City analysts' annual dinner on Thursday night. Mr Baker indicated that the Government might give the go-ahead for the development of Cable television by the commercial companies.

This produced a flurry of activity in shares like Electronic Rentals up 5p at 94p and Thomson EMI up 7p at 475p.

But with the rest of the market, turnover remained disappointing and the FT index closed 0.1 up at 562.3, having opened 2.0 down at 10am.

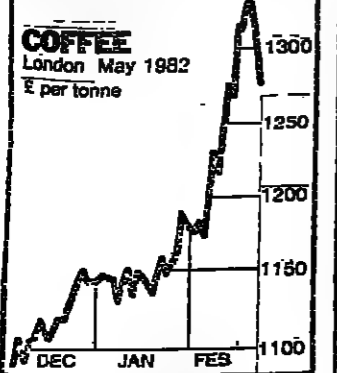
In gilt activity was restricted to shorts where hopes that the "tap" Exchequer 13½% 1987 might be exhausted in early trade proved unfounded. Nevertheless, rises of up to ¼ were reported by the close.

Brokers' Greville Grant have upgraded their full year forecast for Marks & Spencer, unchanged at 140p, following a better than expected second half performance. The figures due out next month are expected to show an increase in pre-tax profits from £180m to £215m.

British Home Stores has also been doing the rounds in the City, and in spite of a 30 per cent shortfall in profits in the first half is expected to make up much of the loss following a good Christmas. Analysts are now upgrading profits from £35m to

## COMMODITIES

● A weaker New York market and some commission house selling pushed coffee down to its lowest levels for the week. March closed at £1,383 a tonne, a decline of 22s, while May was down by 23s to £1,277 a tonne. Trading was generally quiet but dealers reported an underlying lightness of supply.



● Tin prices also eased but late trading saw a burst of borrowing, similar to the previous day. About 1,500 tonnes of cash metal was borrowed for a day up to the maximum permitted premium of £120 a tonne. Cash tin ended the day 26s lower at £8,830 a tonne.

## OTHER EXCHANGES

Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1,280.92 up 23.02.  
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 7,713.31 up 29.55.

## CURRENCIES

● The dollar was again easier as United States interest rates eased. Sterling reached £1.86 at one stage.

## MONEY MARKETS

● Period rates eased slightly in sympathy with lower Eurodollar rates. The Bank bought £435m of bills in response to a £450m shortage.

Domestic Rates:  
Base rates 14%  
3-month interbank 14½-15%  
Euro-Currency rates  
3 month dollar 15½-16½  
3 month DM 10½-11½  
3 months FR.F. 15½-16½

## £386m profit brings big rise in Lloyds Bank dividend

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Lloyds Bank opened the reporting season for the big clearers yesterday with a £386m rise in 1981 profits to a record £386m before tax. The figures were well up with best outside forecasts and Lloyds also pleased the City with the big rise of one-third in the final dividend. This leaves the year's payment to shareholders up by a quarter to 30.54p and the shares rose 11p to 481p with other bank shares up in sympathy.

Outside the City, however, the results may raise eyebrows. Sir Jeremy Morse, chairman, gave a

warning a year ago when attacking the windfall profits tax that the future was not bright and bank profits had reached their cyclical peak.

Yesterday he emphasized that a strong world-wide performance was behind the bank's growth. Lloyds Bank International, the main overseas arm, boosted profits from £64.5m to £120.6m before tax as reported in November and Sir Jeremy said better control of costs, the fall in sterling and increased market share had also helped towards higher operating profits.

Sir Jeremy added that retained profits, which were needed for the bank to grow, were down because of the windfall profits tax — which cost Lloyds £58.6m leaving retentions down by £15m to £157m and from £47m to £24m on a current cost basis — but despite this the bank's free capital ratio was unchanged at over 19:1.

Although average base rate was 3 per cent lower at 13.3 per cent in 1981, Lloyds benefited from higher lending volumes and a bigger spread between the rate paid to borrowers and depositors. Helped by the

inclusion of Lloyds & Scottish, the finance house, as a subsidiary for the last six months, the domestic contribution to operating profit rose from £171m to £207m. Sir Jeremy said that as the proportion of non-interest bearing accounts declined, the bank's profits were becoming less cyclical.

Lloyds had no plans to pay interest on current accounts because it did not think customers wanted it.

Bad debt provisions rose sharply for the group from £68m to £85.7m.

## Little cheer as output rises slightly

By David Blake, Economics Editor

Britain's economy expanded slightly in the last three months of 1981, according to official figures published yesterday. But growth was almost entirely because of extra fuel production to meet the demands of the cold weather, which suggests that the recovery in output is slow and uncertain.

Once growth in the North Sea is stripped out of the figures, the economy appears hardly to have moved at all at the end of last year. The index of output excluding oil and gas went up by a negligible amount, from 100.7 to 100.8, compared with a 1975 level of 100.

For the economy as a whole the growth was slightly larger, with an increase between the third and fourth quarters of 0.3 per cent, from 104.5 to 104.8.

The figures are distorted by the bad weather at the end of last year, which boosted energy demand but depressed the rest of the economy. There was also a particularly long Christmas holiday in 1981, which reduced the amount of working time.

All of these special factors do not remove the point that the economy is proving very

sluggish in its recovery from the recession.

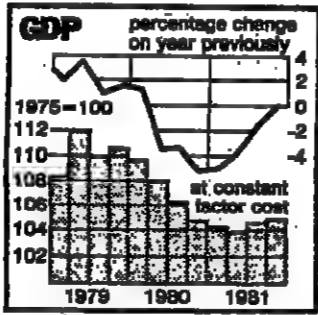
Figures produced earlier this week showed that industrial production fell by more than 1 per cent in December and there are some tentative signs that companies are trying to run down their stocks again in expectation of weak demand. There is also growing evidence that consumers, who have kept up their spending through the darkest days of recession, are at last starting to cut back. Redundancies continue at a steady pace.

The Government expects output to rise slowly in the rest of 1982, though it recently indicated that it expected slightly more than the 1 per cent growth forecast in early December. It expects output to take off in 1983 as the world economy picks up.

Most private forecasts expect growth of 1 to 2 per cent this year, though a domestic product survey of its members says that demand will stay flat for the next four months or so.

The latest figures, published by the Central Statistical Office, are the first estimate made for total gross domestic product at the end of last year. They are based on the output measure, one of the three ways of measuring GDP, and the one that is usually thought most reliable. But they may be revised later.

The figures fit in with warnings by Mr Francis Pym, Leader of the Commons, of the difficulties the Government faces in the months ahead, but they do little to ease the problems of the Chancellor.



## City optimistic US rates have peaked

By John Whitmore

Hopes that United States interest rates may have peaked created a more optimistic mood in financial markets yesterday.

With Eurodollar interest rates earlier again and the key Fed funds rate down to 14½ per cent in early New York dealings, the dollar again lost ground, though not to the extent of Thursday.

In London trading the dollar closed 1.3 pence lower at DM2.3637, well down on the DM2.40 level it reached on Monday. The pound also improved, though failing to hold its best gains, ending 20 points better at £1.854 after a brief rise above £1.86.

More confident bidding at the weekly Treasury bill tender cut the average rate of

discount at which bills were allotted from 13.75 to 13.61 per cent. In money markets period rates tended to ease slightly.

Gilt disappointed some brokers after the strong overnight performance of the United States bond market. Even so, long dated stocks made fresh gains of up to 75p, and the government broker was able to sell more of the short term Exchequer 13½ per cent 1987.

The equity market was rather more subdued.

After the fresh anxiety that greeted last week's United States money supply figures on Monday, the market quickly discounted the mid-week rise in prime lending rates.

## 'Unenviable position' of ACC shareholders outlined

Shareholders in Associated Communications Corporation would be in an "unenviable position," if the courts refused to block the £36m takeover bid for the company by Australian entrepreneur, Mr Robert Folz, said the ACC board yesterday.

Mr Samuel Stammer, QC, for Heron International and a number of other shareholders in ACC, said they would be left with nothing but 66p a share and the hope

that if everything went "well and favourably" in a difficult conflict in Australia they might in July be offered 85p a share under a second offer by Mr Holmes a Court & S Bell Group.

Mr Stammer said if the courts were to refuse to grant injunctions blocking the takeover at £36m, which was approved by the ACC board on January 19, shareholders would be left with nothing but 66p a share and the hope

earlier been described as the "continuing deterioration" in ACC's financial position.

Before the court was cleared, Lord Justice Templeman asked Mr Stammer whether, having read the new information, Heron would still offer £49m for ACC.

Mr Stammer replied: "We have read this and the answer is 'Yes', we are not frightened." If Heron and the shareholders succeeded in opening up the field to other bids.

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## High speed telecommunications challenge

## Mercury prepares its quicksilver service

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

The issue of a domestic operating licence this week to the Mercury private telecommunications consortium led by Cable & Wireless is one of the most important results of the Government's policy to liberalize the British telecommunications industry.

Since the intentions of the Government were made public in July 1980 by Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Industry at the time, the liberalization programme has become a highly sensitive political issue.

Supporters of the state monopoly, then the Post Office, ranged against proponents of free enterprise and the Post Office dissatisfied customers.

The British Telecommunications Bill which made competition possible and separate the telecommunications network from the Post Office from posts by the formation of British Telecom an independent company, was passed last July and came into effect in October.

However before the passing of the Act, the private sector was already responding to the challenge of competition.

The Mercury consortium led by Cable & Wireless in partnership with Barclays Merchant Bank and BP emerged as the one most favoured by the Department of Industry.

It was left to British Telecom to negotiate with the

consortium, on how Mercury would interconnect with the existing national telecommunications network.

Mercury submitted its plans to the Department of Industry giving details of a network which would initially cost £50m and would use about 800 miles of fibre optic cabling and microwave radio links.

By October of last year the Mercury consortium had been issued with a letter of intent from the Government, despite the protestations of British Telecom that its own tariffs would rise because of competition.

The corporation claimed that the Mercury network would cream off revenue generated by business users

which has subsidized domestic users for a long time.

British Telecom has about 15 million residential subscribers, but its 4 million business users contribute about 60 per cent of its revenue.

Mercury said that without access to international circuits independent of British Telecom it would withdraw its application.

In the end it acquired the right to lease private international circuits and have its own satellite earth station and British Telecom retained control of all international traffic through the public network.

The licence covers a period of 25 years

## Mitchell Cotts chief leaves

By Philip Robinson

Mr John Wren, managing director of international trading conglomerate Mitchell Cotts, has suddenly left the group. His departure is thought to have followed a meeting this week with Mr Philip Dunkley, Cotts' chairman.

Mr Wren's office said last night that he was not available and would not be back to the office "for some considerable time."

Reports that he has been dismissed were vehemently denied by Mr Dunkley, who said: "It's not true he has been dismissed. I am not confirming that he is still here. If I had anything to say about it I would have made an announcement."

It is understood that Mr Wren's departure followed discussions over the structure of the 14-member main board.

Cotts is expected to announce within a fortnight the appointment of Mr Thomas Kinsey, in a new role which could be at chief executive level. He has been a non-executive director of Cotts for two years and announced on Thursday that he was leaving as joint managing director of the Midlands-based group Delta Metal.

He declined to comment on suggestions that he is about to take a top job with Cotts. "You must ask the chairman of Cotts. I don't know what the position is and even if I did it would be improper of me as a non-executive director of that company to comment. There is an announcement in two weeks. It would be quite improper of me to jump the gun before the company has made an announcement."

Mr Wren, who was unavailable for comment last night, had been managing director of Cotts for about four years. The latest accounts show his salary at around £45,000 a year and his shareholding in the company rose last year from 4,074 ordinary shares to 16,574.

Observers say that the traditional management advance in Cotts has been from managing director to deputy executive chairman through to the top job as chairman.

## The gospel according to Cork

Sir Kenneth: 'would-be South Seas rum runner'

By Peter Winwright

Church should not remain silent as it is at the moment," said Sir Kenneth Cork, "trying to make out of the community more than you put in."

History does not record what His Grace told the new Lord Mayor in reply but it prompted Canon Eric James, Canon Missioner of St Albans, to write to *The Times*: "Last night on television we were shown the speech the Lord Mayor of London set before the guests at his banquet: soup, baron of beef, breasts of pheasant, trifle, washed down with sherry, a couple of wines, port, brandy and liqueurs."

"His guests, from banking, livery companies and so on, did not strike me as preeminently Pharoah's lean kind."

"Perhaps the Lord Mayor, and his guests, would consider sending the price of their meal — 'For what we have received — to the World Development Movement'."

Sir Kenneth is however better known for saving money rather than spending it. After Berkhamsted public school and service with the Honourable Artillery Company during the war when he was with Eisenhower in North Africa and as a Lieutenant-Colonel ran the whole of the British army's catering in Italy after hostilities ended, he represents much that is typical in the City.

## EEC to investigate pricing of cars

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Feb 19

A thorough overhaul of the way car import and export restrictions are handled between European Community countries has started after widespread pressure.

Herr Frans Andriessen, the commissioner responsible for competition inside the Community, is to start consultations with governments in the next few days with the aim of drawing up a draft regulation to control the trade.

A draft regulation has been in existence for some time. But the European office of consumer unions claims it is "a disaster" which is so complicated that it is useless "it would definitely not be in the consumers' interests if it were adopted," a spokesman said.

A report by the consumer unions last October highlighted the problem, showing that British cars in Britain cost more before tax than anywhere else in the Community. This led to questions in the House of Commons and a series of letters to the Commission which ended in the decision to investigate

and draw up an improved regulation.

So far the Commission has obtained copies of documents from British Leyland and the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders as a start to building a new dossier. Other manufacturers in the Community are also to be investigated.

In addition the consumer unions are asking the Commission to examine the compatibility of certain national laws on importing new cars from other member states with provisions of the Treaty of Rome governing quantitative restrictions on the import of goods.

British Leyland saw its sales of cars in Italy jump 71 per cent last year from 15,045 to 25,835. This was a better performance than any other manufacturer and was largely due to the introduction of the Mini Metro. Although the foreign manufacturers in Italy sold 704,357 cars against 674,856 in 1980, Renault remained foreign market leader though its sales slipped slightly.

## Poles settle most of debt problems

By Our Banking Correspondent

Poland has paid nearly all the interest and capital on its loans overdue from 1981. Bankers are increasingly confident that the way will soon be clear for signing of the agreement to reschedule \$2,400 (£1.29m) of Polish loans, which was originally reached last year but delayed because of Poland's failure to pay the last of the \$500m interest and principle promised by the end of 1981.

A spokesman for Bank of America in San Francisco said yesterday: "We have now been substantially paid and are continuing to receive payments." In London Lloyds Bank said only

\$650,000 of interest was outstanding compared with over \$5m overdue at one stage. Lloyds refused to comment on the size of its Polish bad debt provisions although its international banking subsidiary recently boosted overall bad debt provisions from £19m to £44m.

Privately, bankers in London are now confident that remaining 1981 interest will be paid and that the rescheduling agreement can be signed next month.

"We are optimistic of signing within the first fortnight of March," said one banker yesterday.

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## FAMILY MONEY

## Oakeshott: 'terror of the investment trusts'

When Matthew Oakeshott started running the £300m Courtaulds Pension Fund in March last year, he came to it with a few definite ideas. He has been putting some of them into practice since, to the terror of the investment trust sector, which is the initial object of his attentions.

He says investment trust shareholders should have a better deal: they should be able to sell at prices which more nearly reflect the value of the underlying assets in their funds. Well, no-one would disagree with that. But how is it to be achieved?

Most trust managers would say it is to be done by friendly persuasion, but friendly persuasion is a tactic for the longer term, and as Mr Oakeshott (quoting Keynes) observes, in the longer-term, we shall all be dead. He has applied himself to this sector because he thinks there is a good chance of getting them.

He could, of course, realise his profits by buying up trusts in the market and incorporating the assets into his funds at market value. That is the course the coal board pension funds took a couple of years ago, when Mr Oakeshott was making his acquaintance with the sector as one of the Warburg team that was advising them.

But buying up trusts wholesale takes a fair amount



Matthew Oakeshott: the man at the head of the £300m Courtaulds Pension Fund

of cash, and Mr Oakeshott does not have that kind of ammunition. Investment income apart, little more is coming into the Courtaulds pension fund than is going out of it and while he raised the £15m required to buy up Grange Trust last November (from the proceeds of the gifts which he inherited and sold), he could not keep it up without more heavy sales elsewhere.

So he has been picking trusts that are persuadable instead. He persuades them of the benefit of unitisation. Failing that, with a bit of

luck he might be able to persuade someone else of the benefits of buying them — at, of course, a price that gives him a handsome profit on his holdings. That is why he has been building up significant stakes in a small range of trusts with similar characteristics — not too big, no cross holdings, reasonable portfolio, and a handsome discount while he's picking up the shares. There is, for instance, Dundee and London, General Scottish, Murray Gleneden, and Scottish Ontario, all of which have assets of less than £25m.

It won't necessarily do to follow him, though. He thinks now that the sector is not nearly as attractive as it was; and he has started selling. What is next? Well, he says, the property sector has rather similar characteristics. Don't get him wrong, though. He is not going in for universal asset stripping. He thinks there is an excellent case for holding investment trusts as an investment — an excellent case, that is, for someone else.

Adrienne Gleeson

## Ensuring a fair deal for house-holders

The confrontation between the building societies and Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of the Office of Fair Trading, over house owners' choice of property insurance raises more than one question. But for the individual house owner the first must be: how satisfactory is my own insurance, and is a cheaper deal possible?

Complaints being studied by Mr Borrie indicate that at least with a few societies much less has been done to widen the insurance choice than Mr Borrie had hoped for following last October's changes in model rules for building societies by the

Building Societies' Association (BSA). The change left it open for individual societies not to insist on being agents for arranging insurance cover. The main result of the present agency system is that a society gets the commission on the insurance deal, although it is claimed that there are cost advantages arising from administrative simplicity particularly with block insurance arrangements between societies and insurers.

The agency issue may well turn out to be the crucial one between the societies and Mr Borrie, who might launch

his own formal investigation under the Competition Act after which a case could be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for judgment on whether the public interest is suffering. Certainly complete freedom of choice could be bought at some cost. The societies argue with some force that their block policies and the overall administrative convenience, if scrapped, could mean an increase in borrowing rates of about 0.15 per cent. Insurance companies on their side could face more administrative costs.

What is clear — the agency issue apart — is that building

societies are not falling over themselves to point out to borrowers what options they already have.

Practice varies. Some societies offer three or more alternatives. Aside from the agency question, the main argument of the building societies is that the present system at least ensures that they, and their members are properly covered. And owners who have a bad claims record, will not if they insure through their building society, run the risk of not having their own renewed.

Derek Harris

## For doctors' benefit

When Doctor Jenny Dyson's husband gave up work after suffering a series of strokes and heart attacks she asked her pension fund. The National Health Superannuation Scheme — if he would get a widowers' pension should she predecease him. Doctor Dyson, like the other 20,000 married women doctors in the NHS scheme, makes the same pension contributions as her male colleagues, and has the same retirement age. But she had no right for benefits which male doctors receive automatically. She says: "I have made pension contributions for nearly 20 years. If I was a man my widow would automatically receive about half my pension. Because my husband was ill and could not work I was naturally anxious to secure the same sort of benefits for him."

But despite the fact that around a quarter of the doctors in the NHS scheme are women making equal contributions their husbands do not get automatic widowers' benefits. Far from it. And although there are arrangements in the scheme for providing dependants benefits proving a need is, as Dr Dyson discovered, "a harrowing business."

"It was all very humiliating," she says. "I wrote to the superannuation office and took the advice of the British Medical Association which is now supporting the pension rights of women doctors."

"Eventually I was told that to prove dependency I would have to get a doctor's certificate saying that because of my husband's illness I was unable to support myself because of the state of his health. I found that amazing because he was already 65 years old, at normal retirement age, by this time."

To get the necessary certificate her husband had to give his consent, because of his medical confidentiality. This he did. But as Dr Dyson points out "consenting to a certificate stating that you



Dr. Jenny Dyson: the Government claims it is too expensive to change the system

are wholly dependent on your wife is not the sort of thing men like to do."

Dr Dyson managed to get her husband classified as a dependant within the terms of the NHS pension scheme but she, and many other women doctors, are distressed that widowers' pensions are not paid in the same way as widows' benefits since they are paying as much in pension contributions as a man.

The humiliation and difficulties involved in proving dependency rub salt into the wounds that only establishing proper equality in pension schemes will heal.

The Medical Women's Federation has been campaigning to get the terms of the NHS pension scheme changed. MWF Honorary Secretary Dr Lotte Newman thinks it is scandalous that when doctors' husbands are discriminated against in this way, especially as we have a woman Prime Minister.

"If Mrs Margaret Thatcher predeceased her husband he would get a widowers' pension," she says. "But for us nothing has changed, although a recent ruling in the European Court indicates we may be making progress." Last week the

European Court ruled that British Rail was guilty of sex discrimination in not extending to husbands and children of retired British Rail employees the same travel concessions they gave to dependants of retired male workers.

Pension benefits are outside the scope of the Sex Discrimination Act, although, to give it its due, the Occupational Pensions Board pointed out, the "anomalies" since 1975 go. Still, the majority of schemes cling to the caveman notion that the man is the main breadwinner.

Even where it can be proved he is not, the discriminatory arrangements for dependants benefits smack of the Victorian workhouse. The pensions industry is struggling to solve the problems of job leavers and transferability, with the prodding of the Government. There is sympathy for men who change jobs and find they will not get two thirds of final salary on retirement. No one seems to care for the millions of women that are being discriminated against, least of all the married ranks of pin-striped gentlemen attending this week's National Association of Pension Funds conference.

According to a NAPP survey only a quarter of occupational pension schemes offer widowers' benefits on the same terms as widows' pensions. The rest may, like the NHS scheme, offer dependants benefits, on a discretionary basis.

Dr Lotte Newman says: "The Government claim it is too expensive to change the system while money is tight."

But pensions experts claim that giving widowers' pensions automatically would cost very little. Women, however, have to live longer than men. Most will outlive their husbands. Financially it would be a cheap benefit. As things stand the majority of married women paying into pensions are being cheated.

MONEY TALK  
Children's guide to saving

National Savings has produced a guide for parents on the schemes available for children. "National Savings for the young" includes information on the tax implications of its range of products.

The National Savings Bank Investment Account is ideal for children since interest is paid gross, any child over seven can open an account with a minimum deposit of £1. Children can buy National Savings Certificates too.

But as one young reader of the Times wrote to point out this week, the 23rd issue is only available in units of £25. Way beyond the reach of most children who want to learn to invest their money properly.

Benefits check This week the Government produced a White Paper outlining plans for dealing with the increasing mountain of forms we all have to wade through. Tolley's also published a new extensive guide "Social Security and State Benefits" — a detailed explanatory handbook of the hundreds of welfare benefits which produce much of the ridiculous paperwork against which we are now being officially waged.

Tolley's excellent new book is, at £7.95 hardly aimed at those on social security. But it will be of infinite use to social workers, charity organisations, divorce lawyers, personnel officers and others who have to grapple daily with the system on behalf of others.

Tolley's guide is written by Jim Matthews and Nigel Lambert. Published by Tolley Publishing: 209 High Street, Croydon, Surrey. Price £7.95.

## Low premium

A new low premium household contents insurance policy for the elderly has been launched by Lloyd's broker Alexander Howden in conjunction with the Charity Age Concern England. The minimum sum insurable is £1,000 for a premium of £7. The maximum is £25,000 at a premium of £25 a year.

## Rates reduced

The Gateway, the latest building society to drop differential mortgage rates. The rate of 15 per cent will apply to all new new borrowers immediately and to existing ones from the beginning of April this year.

## Going west for a 100% mortgage

One of the perennial problems for first time homebuyers is finding the initial deposit as well as enough money to cover the legal fees, survey costs, and increasingly, the Stamp Duty, involved in buying a house.

With banks and building societies keen competition for this week's welcome introduction of 100 per cent mortgage offers.

First off the mark was the Bristol & West Building Society offering 100 per cent mortgages to applicants in regular employment and with a prospect of advancement, who were able to demonstrate their financial credibility.

Financial credibility, in this case, means they must have saved between 5 per cent and 10 per cent of the purchase price.

So it is little help for those who cannot save anything out of their income, but good news for others who can use what would have gone in deposit to meet the other expenses of buying and setting up home.

The B & W scheme covers mortgages to first time buyers for a maximum of £25,000 and 100 per cent loans will also be available for young couples taking out a mortgage under the 1st Time scheme, which offers loans at a reduced rate of 14 per cent up to £15,000.

For those who find it impossible to raise any capital at all, Lloyds Bank is offering 100 per cent advances on homes costing up to £30,000. No saving is required

although you must be a "creditworthy purchaser."

However, 100 per cent mortgages are available elsewhere, according to rivals, although they have not so far been pushing the idea at the public. Many building societies are permitted to lend this amount, but finding one that will do so may be another matter. Lloyds and Bristol & West are eager for the business.

Customers should be aware, however, that the 100 per cent mortgage may not be the total answer to their problem. The advance will be 100 per cent of the bank or building society valuation, which might in some cases be lower than the purchase price. You will have to find the difference.

## FAMILY MONEY MARKET

Current account — no interest paid. Deposit accounts — Barclays 12 per cent Midland, Lloyds, and Natwest 11 per cent; seven days notice required for withdrawals. For sums of £10,000 or more rate fixed for the term. Fixed-term deposits — 1 month 14 per cent, 3 months 13 per cent, 6 months 13 per cent. Rates quoted by Barclays. Other banks may differ.

Mortgage funds — Simco 7-day fund, 14.07 per cent; UDT Average Rate Deposit Fund, 14 per cent; Tyndall 7-day fund, 14 per cent; Simco dollar fund, 14.62 per cent interest paid without deduction of tax. Further details from Simco (01-236 0233), Tyndall (0272-732241), UDT (scheme now closed to new investment).

National Savings Bank — Ordinary accounts — interest 6 per cent, first £70 of interest tax-free. Investment Account — 15 per cent, interest paid without deduction of tax, one month's notice of withdrawal, maximum investment £20,000. Reducing investment — 12 per cent, one month's notice of withdrawal, maximum investment £20,000. National Savings — Individual certificates — maximum investment £5,000; return tax-free and linked to changes in the retail prices index, 4 per cent bonus if held five years to maturity. Cash value of £100 certificates purchased in February 1977, £187.61 including 4 per cent bonus.

National Savings — National Savings certificates — 23rd issue. Return 14 per cent of all taxes, equivalent to an annual interest rate over the five year term of 10.5 per cent, maximum investment £5,000.

Building societies — Ordinary share deposits — 9.75 per cent, 1 to 5 years, 13 per cent, 5.5 per cent over the

BSA recommended ordinary share rate depending on the term. Regular savings schemes — 1.25 per cent, 12 months, 1.25 per cent, 24 months, 1.25 per cent, 36 months, 1.25 per cent, 48 months, 1.25 per cent, 60 months, 1.25 per cent. Rates quoted above are those most commonly offered. Individual building societies may quote different rates. Interest on all accounts paid net of basic rate of tax, not reclaimable by non-taxpayers.

Local authority warbling bonds — 12-month fixed rate investments, interest 14 per cent basic rate tax deducted. 24-month fixed rate investments, interest 14 per cent basic rate tax deducted. 36-month fixed rate investments, interest 14 per cent basic rate tax deducted. 48-month fixed rate investments, interest 14 per cent basic rate tax deducted. 60-month fixed rate investments, interest 14 per cent basic rate tax deducted. Rates quoted by local authorities may differ.

Foreign currency deposits — interest paid without deduction of tax.

US dollar (fully) 12 per cent p.a. Yen (24 months) 12 per cent p.a. D.M. 8 per cent p.a. French Franc 8 per cent p.a. Swiss Franc 8 per cent p.a. Rates quoted by Midland Bank — other banks may differ.

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It is anticipated that the Fund's initial portfolio will be deployed as follows: Canada 5%, Far East 20%, South Africa 5%, U.K. 55%, U.S.A. 15%. The U.K. content will be biased towards companies having substantial overseas interests. Percentage allocations will vary at the sole discretion of the Managers.

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Perpetual manage only two other Funds — a Growth Fund and an Income Fund — and both have had exceptional records since launch. The Growth Fund has consistently retained its place as Britain's top performing unit trust for capital growth since launch in September 1974, while the Income Fund was the top performing income fund for capital growth in 1981. The average rise in the offer to retail prices of our two existing funds over the year to 31st December 1981 was 25% net income reinvested.

**Worldwide Philosophy**

Perpetual will be continuing their worldwide investment approach which has been a feature of their investment philosophy with their other two Funds. Perpetual consider this approach is of benefit to the investor who is not only relieved of the responsibility of selecting which country is the right one to be in at the right time but also of the attendant switching costs and a possible immediate liability to capital gains tax.

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You can invest now simply by completing the coupon below and sending it together with your cheque. The minimum initial investment is £1,000. For your guidance the offer price of the units on 16th February 1982 was 50.7p and the estimated gross yield was 3.0%.

You should remember that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

**PERPETUAL**

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Perpetual Group Worldwide Recovery Fund is administered by a Trust Deed dated 15th December 1981 and is a "wider range" investment under the Trustee Investments Act 1961.

Unit holders will receive on or before 1st April each year commencing 1st April 1983 a statement showing the net reinvested income and the amount of income tax deducted.

An initial management charge of 5.25% on the assets equivalent to 5% of the 1st year price is included in the price of the units. Out of the Managers will pay commission to authorised agents; rates are available on request. There is an annual charge of 1% (plus VAT) of the value of the Fund which will be deducted from the gross income of the Fund. The Trust Deed permits a maximum annual charge of 1.5% (plus VAT).

The Trustee is Barclays Bank Trust Company Ltd. The Managers of the Fund are Perpetual Unit Trust Management Ltd, 48 Hart Street, Hanley-on-Thames, Oxon, OX9 2AZ. Tel. 04912 6886.

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Send me (Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms)

First name(s) in full

Address

Signature(s)

(Joint applicants must all sign and attach names and addresses separately.)

T120/2

## CRESCENT JAPAN INVESTMENT TRUST PLC

Summary of the Report for the year ended 31 December 1981

- Net asset value per share at 31 December 1981 was 349.7 pence as compared with 239.2 pence a year earlier.
- Statistics circulated by The Association of Investment Trust Companies show the company as the best performing member trust in 1981 in terms of both net asset value and share price.
- Dividend of 1.50 pence proposed as compared with 0.95 pence for 1980; an increase of 57.9 per cent.
- Shareholders' funds were 100 per cent invested in Japanese equities at 31 December 1981.
- Important features in 1981:
  - (i) The policy of seeking out interesting growth stocks in high technology areas remained unaltered.
  - (ii) Recently pharmaceutical, interest rate sensitive and certain selected consumer related stocks have been included in the portfolio.

## NEW TOKYO INVESTMENT TRUST PLC

Summary of the Report for the period ended 31 December 1981

- Net asset value per share at 31 December 1981 was 124.3 pence; the shares were issued on 2 December 1980 at 100 pence per share.
- Statistics circulated by The Association of Investment Trust Companies show the company as the fourth best performing member trust in 1981 in terms of net asset value.
- No dividend is proposed; capital appreciation is the primary objective of the company.
- Shareholders' funds were 98 per cent invested in Japanese equities at 31 December 1981.
- Important features in 1981:
  - (i) Portfolio now consists of holdings in 42 small to medium sized Japanese companies.
  - (ii) Substantial exposure to new technology, particularly in office automation and industrial electronics has been an important feature of investment policy.

Copies of these reports may be obtained from EDINBURGH FUND MANAGERS LIMITED, 4 Melville Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7JB. Telephone: 031-226 4931.

FAMILY MONEY

# NCC banks on a reaction

The National Consumer Council is conducting a survey on how the banks treat their personal customers. General comments from the public are welcome. Margaret Drummond imagines the postbag.

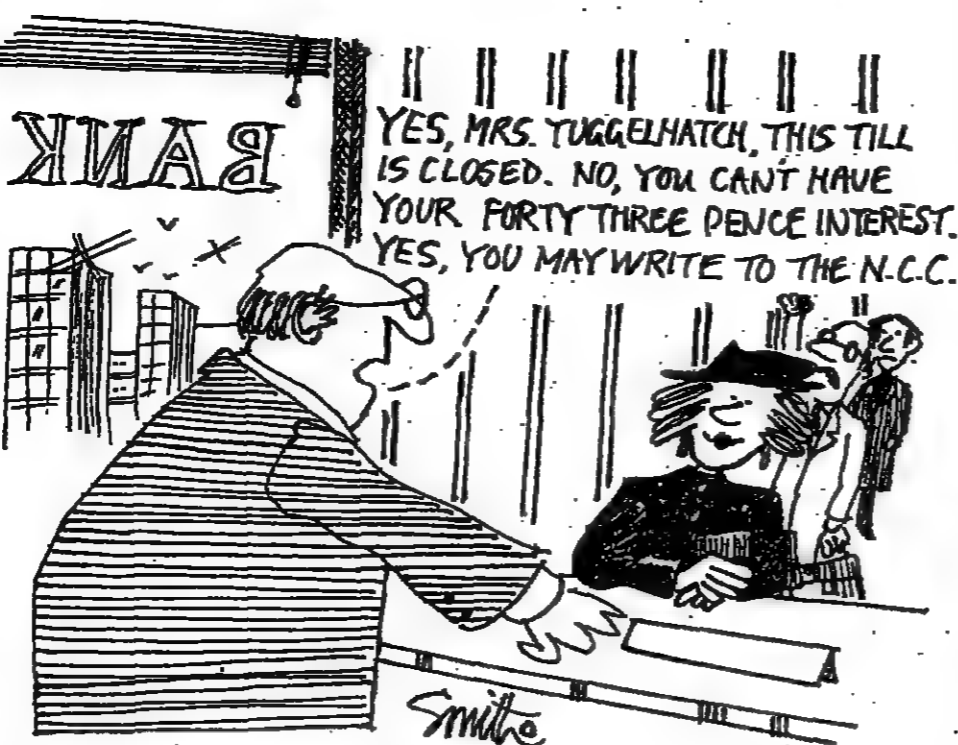
Dear NCC, I know many customers criticize the banks but I think they do a good job. I used to have to queue every Friday lunchtime in my local branch until they put a cash dispenser outside. Now I can queue in the rain every Friday evening instead. Yours sincerely, Ellen Smith, London

Dear Sir, Every time I go and see my bank manager he puts his hand on my knee. Is this part of the friendly personal service, or is he paying me too much interest? Yours confused, Brenda Squires, Bromley

Dear Sir, Now that queuing has become an established feature of the banking service could the Big Four kindly produce a booklet on crowd control to go alongside the advice on mortgages, wills, life insurance and unit trusts, available free at every branch. How about a system of ropes to restrain angry customers? We did these things properly in India. Yours crassly, General Sir Mottram Buckle-shot, Beaconsfield

Dear NCC, I keep getting letters from the Access department of the Westminster asking me to destroy my credit card because I haven't paid my bill. But my husband's bank keeps sending me forms inviting me to apply for its Access card. Should I tear the application form in two and send it off? Yours bankrupt, Mrs Joan Swiggins, Chislehurst

Dear NCC, Lloyds Bank has refused me a mortgage on my black



station. Doesn't this infringe the Trades Descriptions Act? Yours, Ellen Whip-Withers, Bucks.

Dear NCC, The banks are always advertising for new customers but do they really want our money? I have been trying to open an account for ten years but every Saturday morning I find the bank is closed. Yours puzzled, Dave Bright, Clapham

Dear NCC, I see in the financial press that Barclays are paying 16 1/2 per cent interest on a £100m loan. Why can they pay me only 11 1/2 per cent on my deposit account? Yours precociously, Jason Rees-Spragg (aged 10)

PS Why does Janice put up the till closed sign when she sees me in the queue?

Dear Sir, I thought the Tory Government believed in free enterprise and healthy competition. In my local shopping precinct there are eight building societies and four banks. Is this really what the public wants? Couldn't they move out to make way for one of my nice new sex shops? Yours, Sid Blunt, See-Thru Enterprises, Greek Street, Soho

Dear NCC, The recent changes in the banking system seem to be causing great problems for my readers. Could you clarify the ground rules on equities? When trying to get money into or out of a bank should you: Ask for a deposit slip or cheque at the counter and fill up the queue while waiting; Work one's way back indirectly (are elbows allowed)?

Retire to the back of the queue and start all over again; Give up and go to the nearest building society? Even Courts is worse than Sainsbury's these days. Yours stylishly, Belle Vista, Editor, Vague Magazine

When will the banks give up the disgraceful habit of sending unsolicited consumer rubbish through the post to tempt impoverished credit card customers? Where can I find my dozen Italian silk shirts, my set of Le Creuset casseroles, my three tea making radio alarm clocks and my genuine striped pine rack of new and exciting herbs and spices? Yours penitent, Dave Spart, Cell 4, Brixton Prison

PS do you think I could sell my story to the Sunday newspapers?

Margaret Drummond

## Mature investments at auctions

The pre-Budget wine sales of the leading auctioneers suggest that there is a growing appreciation of the value in buying (and selling) wine via the auction houses.

Next Tuesday Bonham's offer current and old vintage port, classified fourth claret and domaine bottled burgundy. On the following day Sotheby's offer over 2,000 cases which include claret

from 1952-78, burgundy from 1947-79, rhône, champagne, port, West German and even Californian. Christie's offer "finest and rarest" wines on February 25 and, in Amsterdam, on March 2.

Few merchants could hope to match the auctioneers on the number and variety of samples they open for tasting, usually the day prior to the sale. This is a valuable

opportunity for potential wine buyers to assess the quality of wines on offer, to check labels and to decide on the potential, if any — the wine's investment possibility. If you cannot attend such a tasting, the auctioneer will give his professional opinion. Their expertise is considerable, employing four Masters of Wine among the two leading houses.

For the major wine investment fields — claret and port — the saleroom frequently allows purchases below market prices. In common with coins and medals, there is no buyer's premium for wine and spirit purchases at the two leading houses. Christie's and Sotheby's. For the successful bidder, VAT is usually liable unless the wine is sold by a private person. The wine may be sold lying in bond, or duty-paid but available in bond.

For the investor who does not require the wine for some time, it may well be advantageous to keep it in bond, thereby postponing payment of duty. This can amount to about 58.24 on a standard 75cl case of claret or burgundy, £10.44 on Champagne, and £13.20 for vintage port.

There is the chance that duty rates may rise but the Government is mindful of the ease pending at the European Court of Justice where the commission has called for a reduction in the present tax ratio on wine.

While many everyday wines come under the hammer, particularly at Christie's South Kensington, auctions are run on a cash basis and payment is expected on receipt of invoice.

Carriage home varies in its rates. Bonham's generally charge £150 a case for London delivery and £300 for the United Kingdom mainland. Sotheby's rate is £250 with a minimum £4 consignment charge.

Transit insurance is often inadequate for wines and spirits bought at auction as the carrier has limited cover based on weight. Therefore adequate cover needs to be taken out.

When you realise surplus stocks, Bonham's deduct 10 per cent commission, while Christie's and Sotheby's ask for 15 per cent. They aim to pay in between two and four weeks after the sale. If you are buying the stocks, it is usual for the bottles to be uplifted to a London warehouse where the auctioneers check them prior to the sale.

Christie's hold specialised sales both in King Street, London, and abroad, securing "notably high prices for rarities. They also run more modest wine auctions in the City and in their South Kensington Gallery.

While the London auctioneers will bid free of charge if you cannot attend a wine sale, you may prefer to visit one of the growing number of regional wine auctions.

Edwards Bigwood and Bewlay plan their next wine sale for March 18 at Tiddington near Stratford-upon-Avon. Other names to watch include Glasgow, Trucks and Son of Clifton, Bristol, Lithgow Sons and Partners of Stokesley near Middlesbrough, Lucy Scott of Bury St Edmunds, and Sotheby's in Chesham, Bucks, and Fulbourn (Suffolk).

Conal Gregory

**M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited**  
27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-821 1212

**The Over-the-Counter Market**

1981/82	High	Low	Company	Price Chg	Gross Div	Yld %	P/E Actual	P/E Target
124	100	98	ABI Hldgs 10% CULS	122	—	10.0	8.2	—
75	52	48	Airsprung Group	70	—	4.7	4.7	11.1
51	33	30	Armstrong & Rhodes	43	—	4.3	10.0	8.6
205	187	180	Bardon Hill	202	—	9.7	8.8	12.0
104	72	68	Deborah Services	72	—	6.0	3.3	5.6
130	97	90	Frank Horell	130	—	6.4	4.9	11.7
83	39	35	Frederick Parker	83	—	6.4	7.7	8.2
78	46	42	George Blair	51	—	—	—	—
102	93	88	Ind. Prof. Castings	95	—	7.3	7.7	6.8
106	100	95	Isis Conv Pref	106	—	15.7	14.8	—
113	94	88	Jackman Group	95	—	7.0	7.4	3.2
130	108	100	James Burroughs	112	—	31.3	12.5	—
334	250	230	Robert Jenkins	250	—	5.3	9.1	8.3
59	51	48	Scruttons "A"	58	—	—	—	—
222	162	150	Torday & Carlisle	162	—	10.7	6.6	5.2
15	10	8	Twinkl Ord	13	—	—	—	—
80	66	60	Twinkl 15% ULS	77	—	15.0	19.5	—
44	26	22	Unilock Holdings	26	—	3.0	11.5	4.6
103	73	68	Walter Alexander	74	—	5.4	8.6	4.9
263	212	200	W. S. Yeates	226	—	13.1	5.8	4.8

Prices now available on Prestel page 48146

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Barclays	14%
BCCI	14%
Consolidated Crds	14%
C. Hoare & Co	14%
Lloyds Bank	14%
Midland Bank	14%
Nat Westminster	14%
TSE	14%
Williams & Glyn's	14%

\* 7 day deposits on rates of £10,000 to £50,000 12% £50,000 and over 12 1/2%

**A legal look at your disappearing fixtures**

Friends who recently bought a house were surprised to get a telephone call the night before they moved asking if they wanted to buy the fitted gasfire in the living room. They had assumed it was part of the property.

They were astonished to find next morning, on arriving at their new home, a row of holes in the garden where the wallflowers had been. Inside the bathroom shower curtains had gone as well as

wire baskets that had been part of the built-in bedroom furniture.

What is, and what is not sold as part of a house? Margaret Cox of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors says: "Until exchange of contract the owners can remove from the garden anything they like unless it is specified in the agreement."

The garden gate, on the other hand, is regarded as part of the property — not so the front door bell or name plaque which are considered the personal property of the vendor. The fitted gas fire, on the other hand may be removed if the vendor so wishes but the agent can tell the buyer what he will not be getting.

What if you are not satisfied with the state of your new home? Michael Moriarty of the Law Society advises to go to your solicitor

## BUSINESS NEWS/COMPANIES AND MARKET REPORTS

### SIME DARBY Payout held despite slump in profits

Sime Darby, the Malaysian-based plantations and industrial group, has been hit by a sharp decline in profits in the second half of the year. The group's profits fell 27 per cent to M\$102.9m (£24m) despite a 7 per cent rise in sales to M\$1,329m. Because of a higher tax charge and a much smaller drop in minor losses, earnings dropped even more sharply by 39 per cent to M\$41.4m. But the group is holding the half-year dividend at 4 sen gross, still well covered by earnings, and says it will consider the final dividend in the light of the second half performance.

Sime suffered setbacks in the tractor operation and its Western division. The pre-tax contribution from tractors fell from M\$58.8m to M\$37.6m, as depressed timber prices hit demand for heavy equipment notably in Sabah which has been a major market for Caterpillar equipment.

Losses in commodity trading and insurance broking have pushed the Western division M\$8m into the red and forced the group into a wide-ranging review of its activities here which has already led to the sale of the Guy Butler money-broking side.

Mr Leonard Morris and Mr Jim Bentham, who now head Moben Group where they took over after its former chairman, Mr Neville Johnson, resigned and sold them most of his shares. His resignation followed a profits collapse the group was called Kitchen Queen.

Mr Morris yesterday declined to put a price on the deal, and added: "Our bankers have seen the proposals and are quite happy about it. The companies, Cold Shield double glazing, Doulton Wallguard, Twin Windows, Doulton Aluminium and Mulberry Home Extensions, have a turnover of £30m a year. Moben's last figures showed a decline in sales from £36.1m to £34.2m.

Talks are expected to be completed next week and the deal will need the approval of Moben shareholders.

**FNFC**

**Loan warning**

Mr John Glynn, chairman of First National Finance Corporation, the last secondary bank involved in the Bank of England's lifeboat support operation, has warned loan stockholders against winding the company up if it defaults on repayment of its 1982 loan stock.

He said winding up would not be in the best interests of the holders of the 1982 or 1987 stocks, or other parties involved because there would be a substantial shortfall of assets available for the holders of both stocks.

### WALL STREET

New York, Feb 19 — The market closed lower as prices continued to react to high interest rates, lower corporate earnings, and uncertain economic outlook, and projected large federal budget deficit.

The Dow Jones Industrial average moved in a narrow range around 870 to 870 and volume narrowed to some 51 shares from 60.81 yesterday.

Analysts attributed the late slide to concerns about the weekly money supply figures, released after the close.

**Correction**

Portsmouth and Sunderland Newspapers' pretax profit for the 52 weeks to March 28, 1981 was £21.9m and turnover was £21.9m while pretax profit for the 39 weeks to December 26 was £2.6m on turnover of £19.6m. The interim results for 1980 were affected by the national dispute, not those of 1981, as suggested in the Times on February 6, because of an agency error.

**MOBEN**

**Doulton deal**

Moben Group, which missed a £2m profit forecast last year by £100,000, is buying five businesses in the home improvement market from Doulton, the S. Pearson subsidiary.

Of the total, including Cold Shield, set up by Mr Leonard Morris and Mr Jim Bentham, who now head Moben Group where they took over after its former chairman, Mr Neville Johnson, resigned and sold them most of his shares. His resignation followed a profits collapse the group was called Kitchen Queen.

**WEEKLY LIST OF FIXED-INTEREST STOCKS**

Company	Price	Yld %	P/E
Adams & Gibson (F)	22.82(25.77)	0.220(18)	—
Assam Trading (F)	1.11(1)	0.056(4)	—
Kennedy Brookes (F)	2.88(1.2)	15.1(14.5)	0.7(—)
Scottish Ind (F)	2.63(2.58)	1.88(1.51)	1.02(0.80)
Valuation (F)	37.00(35.18)	1.72(1.18)	0.74(0.57)
Thorncliffe Growth (F)	—	1.18(0.18)	1.25(1.19)
Laser (F)	18.18(18.20)	0.009(0.71)	0.06(0.7)
Loyds (F)	—	1.33(1.05)	12.7(8.0)
Phoenix Mining (F)	1.06(1.58)	0.001(0.008)	1.1(0.4)
Tate (F)	12.51(5.2)	0.38(0.3)	7.75(2.42)
Watkinson (F)	1.46(1.57)	0.40(0.34)	8.8(8.0)

**COMMODITIES**

COPPER: Higher price was steady at the close. Afternoon: Higher price steady at the close. Afternoon: Higher price steady at the close.

**Latest Results**

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**\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days**

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# Rugby Union: Scotland hope to snatch the spoils Ireland feel they have key to win triple crown

From David Hands  
Dublin, Feb 19

The FitzGerald—the politician and the army officer who captained Ireland's rugby team—did not get the vote of confidence from his players today. He thought the players would reject Dr Garrett Fitzgerald for Mr Charles O'Neill, and that the Irish team would fall prey to the Scots. But that, as they say, is his opinion.

His pessimism may have been that of a man who has seen teams abruptly disintegrated before his eyes. He is going to Ireland to see the team in action at Lansdowne Road and lift the spirits of the players. He is also the experience of O'Neill, who has been a key player in the Irish team for many years.

Scotland, by contrast, have yet to play to their full potential. It is a pity that they have not done so, for they need the results that will come from the match against Ireland to give them a better chance of winning the triple crown.

Patrick, aged 24, from Kesh, is a good reputation at club level, but it may take him some time to get into the match. He is also the only player in the Irish team who has not played in a match since he was injured last year.

However, Alcock, who leads the Irish pack, will feel reasonably confident of holding the Irish in place. He is a player who is not afraid to take the ball, and he is a player who is not afraid to take the ball.

There has been rain in Dublin in the last few days, but today there is a fine day. The Irish team is in good luck, and they are in good luck. The Irish team is in good luck, and they are in good luck.



Ciaran Fitzgerald wants to win this battle

ber and 240 points in international matches. He is not the most consistent performer, but he has the temperament to land the ones that matter as England know to their cost. It is his kicking rather than his ability as a runner—his kicking is considerable—which could knock holes in Irish confidence.

After his showing against Wales in England, Irish hopes inevitably turned to Scotland. The red-haired stand-off, 28 next month, has been quite outstanding this season both as a controller of the game and a creator of opportunities for others. It is in that second role that his true value may be shown.

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McNeill was the danger man for Ireland last season, his first in international rugby. At 23 he has all the confidence of youth plus the extra experience of a season at the top. He will be as important as anyone in encouraging the new players to take over on the left wing after the end of the season.

Crossan may find plenty of work to do if the experience of his predecessor is any guide. Ringland and Finn share the three tries against Wales in Ireland's opening championship match. Nor is Crossan short of experience, having toured in South Africa with Ireland last year.

There is history to be made tomorrow night. None of Ireland's four triple crowns—the last was in 1949—has been won in Dublin; the winning venues have been Belfast (twice), Cardiff and Swansea. Success would also ensure for Ireland at least a share of the international championship.

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John Scott shows his handling skills during training in France for today's match.

## French shake-up gives little hope

From Peter West  
Paris, Friday

Gold the French, perhaps could see out of seven backs for one match, against Wales a fortnight ago, and then disperse with five of their eight forwards for the next encounter, with England at Parc des Princes tomorrow. What can predict with any confidence how the latest combination to represent the Grand Slam champions will perform?

Since their all-conquering progress last season, France have won two international matches in Australia and two more at home against New Zealand and a fifth in Cardiff, where they played at the limit, endured a miserable afternoon.

After that experience, it came as no surprise that further heads should be turned. But whereas there is enough talent in this country to put out two or three top-class back divisions, his forwards of the requisite quality are in short supply.

The French selectors have reacted to the latest crisis by dropping both props, including the formidable Paparone, and both locks and one flanker. The result is a pack which includes a loose head, prop, Wolf, who plays for his club at lock or on the other side of the front row; two locks, Carpentier and Rodriguez, who turn out for their clubs at No 8, and a No 6, Joinel, who is reputed to be as good as a flanker.

Joinel was France's outstanding forward last season, and there is no argument about the return of this accomplished, versatile player being an obvious plus. But Carpentier has the memory of an elephant, and his debut against the same opponents two years ago. Choice of the loose head prop, a young man of immense physical and technical echoes of a report of the last French tour of South Africa that he was simply a big, bad Wolf.

Philip Blake, who is happy to confirm the truth of that assertion, and Colin Smart, who will scrummage against Devoira rather than Paparone.

It appears that after one defeat, the French selectors have decided to shake up the pack, and are concentrating on building for the future. It can be the only explanation, but an unconvincing one, for the omission of a respected senior player from a position of such importance.

At least that affords encouragement to an English pack that will need to get it back together with a good deal more control than it managed against the Irish. The scrumming, then, is the key to the success of the French.

If the athletic Bainbridge can rise to the occasion, he should improve the quality of England's possession and add some much needed mobility up front. There is also the hope that John Scott will be all the better for another match under his belt last week-end.

On the law of averages, England's back row must make as many basic errors as were perpetrated a fortnight ago when too many eminent performers were well as a flanker.

I am not convinced that Les Casworth can do much that New Davies would not achieve as well or better. But the Leicester stand-off half wins a second cap on the basis of consistently stimulating play for his club North Midlands.

Not a lot has happened in this championship to inspire conviction about an English victory now. More than ever, perhaps, they need the stimulus of a good, controlled start, with early points on the board, to give them the confidence to believe that they can win.

Even allowing for a local belief that the latest French concoction at forward is no improvement, I rather fear for English prospects.

## Today's teams at Parc des Princes

France	England
M. Sauterque 15	W. H. Hare 15
S. D. Sauterque 14	Right wing 14
S. D. Sauterque 13	Right centre 13
C. B. Sauterque 12	Left centre 12
L. P. Sauterque 11	Left wing 11
J. P. Sauterque 10	Stand-off 10
G. M. Sauterque 9	Scrum half 9
J. P. Sauterque 8	Prop 8
P. Sauterque 7	Hooker 7
D. Sauterque 6	Prop 6
L. Sauterque 5	Lock 5
E. Sauterque 4	Lock 4
J. Sauterque 3	Flanker 3
J. Sauterque 2	No. 8 2
J. Sauterque 1	

## Bristol's taxing problems

The Bristol treasurer, Arthur Holmes, appealed yesterday to the Chancellor to remove VAT from rugby.

"The tax is crippling us and I believe it shouldn't apply to amateur sport," he said.

Gate receipts at Bristol are down by 75 per cent and they lost money on last Saturday's game with Exeter because referees refused Bristol to change their muddy shirts in the second half, because he could not identify the players.

"We took only £300 at the gate and after meeting match expenses there was a net loss of £100. The difference between breaking even and showing a loss," Holmes said.

Bristol also lost their full back last week with a leg injury and he missed today's home game against Gloucester.

Both have a problem at home. The first is that, following the first of the season, Gloucester is a replacement for Scotland against Ireland and the second, Chris Legg is not available.

Clifton go to Taunton without their skipper, Jim Jamison. He broke his nose last week in a collision with one of his own players.

Gloucester have made scrum half Steve Baker, aged 22, captain for today's match at North. Baker, who joined the club four seasons ago, is thought to be the youngest player in the country.

Depot for the hooker Steve Mills, who is on England duty, is preferred to Steve Rogers. Not that he remembers much of it for he went off with concussion.

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## Greenwood's men in dock

By Stuart Jones  
Football Correspondent

The British sports trials are on next Tuesday when England's Northern Ireland present their case at Wembley. Yet today in final preparations two witnesses will not even be allowed to see evidence and two others will be cross-examined in positions to which they are not accustomed.

Thompson, the central figure in England's defence during the jaffling stages, has since lost his Liverpool captaincy as well as his place in the team. He is covered from injury, Bob Paisley keeps an unchanged side against Coventry City and Thompson, absent from the squad, is a reserve for the reserves at Blackpool before joining Ron Greenwood's squad tomorrow.

The tale of Jennings, six years old and with almost three times as many caps as Thompson, is similar. He has also recovered from injury after missing eight games and has been picked for Arsenal's side to visit Manchester United. Wood, his deputy since early January, has kept out a position for the last few days.

Archibald, yet another Scot hoping to gain Jack Stiles' attention, is likely to return for Spurs in place of the suspended Gavin Hastings. Tottenham's wings may be clipped but Kieft Burkinshaw, their manager, will stretch them again if he includes Dick, a 16-year-old apprentice and a natural winger, in preference to Falco.

If today marks Dick's first opportunity, it may signal the last for Barrow. The loan deal for Leeds United this season was against Ipswich in September. After being left out in the wilderness since November 21, he is recalled by Alan Cunniff, Leeds manager, against the same opponents. The two met during the season in a friendly match, which was a £500 fine imposed by Mr Clarke for comments which Barnes had made to the press.

The League upheld the fine and the ill-feeling which has lasted since Barnes arrived from West Bromwich Albion seems to have been replaced by a spirit of mutual determination. It is to show that I'm good enough to play for England in Spain," said the manager. Mr Clarke responded, "We shall see."

On Monday he was given a glimpse of his first cap for his country, Northern Ireland. Yesterday he was recalled by his club, Bolton Wanderers, in place of the suspended Gavin Hastings. Tottenham's wings may be clipped but Kieft Burkinshaw, their manager, will stretch them again if he includes Dick, a 16-year-old apprentice and a natural winger, in preference to Falco.

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If today marks Dick's first opportunity, it may signal the last for Barrow. The loan deal for Leeds United this season was against Ipswich in September. After being left out in the wilderness since November 21, he is recalled by Alan Cunniff, Leeds manager, against the same opponents. The two met during the season in a friendly match, which was a £500 fine imposed by Mr Clarke for comments which Barnes had made to the press.

## Today's teams at Lansdowne Road

REPLACEMENTS: 16 M. P. Sauterque, 17 M. P. Sauterque, 18 M. P. Sauterque, 19 M. P. Sauterque, 20 M. P. Sauterque, 21 M. P. Sauterque, 22 M. P. Sauterque, 23 M. P. Sauterque, 24 M. P. Sauterque, 25 M. P. Sauterque, 26 M. P. Sauterque, 27 M. P. Sauterque, 28 M. P. Sauterque, 29 M. P. Sauterque, 30 M. P. Sauterque, 31 M. P. Sauterque, 32 M. P. Sauterque, 33 M. P. Sauterque, 34 M. P. Sauterque, 35 M. P. Sauterque, 36 M. P. Sauterque, 37 M. P. Sauterque, 38 M. P. Sauterque, 39 M. P. Sauterque, 40 M. P. Sauterque, 41 M. P. Sauterque, 42 M. P. Sauterque, 43 M. P. Sauterque, 44 M. P. Sauterque, 45 M. P. Sauterque, 46 M. P. Sauterque, 47 M. P. Sauterque, 48 M. P. Sauterque, 49 M. P. Sauterque, 50 M. P. Sauterque, 51 M. P. Sauterque, 52 M. P. Sauterque, 53 M. P. Sauterque, 54 M. P. Sauterque, 55 M. P. Sauterque, 56 M. P. Sauterque, 57 M. P. Sauterque, 58 M. P. Sauterque, 59 M. P. Sauterque, 60 M. P. Sauterque, 61 M. P. Sauterque, 62 M. P. Sauterque, 63 M. P. Sauterque, 64 M. P. Sauterque, 65 M. 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**Edited by Peter Davalle**

ITV/LONDON

**8.35 Seaside Street: With The Muppet; 9.35 Space 1999: Interplanetary thriller, with Martin Lindsay; Judy Geeson (r); 10.30 Twixes: noley (r); 11.15 The World of Sport: The line-up is: 12.20 On the Beach: The US in the Box International meeting, (San Diego); 1.00 High Dive (from San Diego) A new world record is attempted; 1.15 News from ITN; 1.20 The ITV Saturday Club: The 1995-96 season; 2.00 Nottingham. In Newcastle, we see the 1.45, 2.15 and 2.50 races. In Nottingham, we see the 1.30, 2.00 and 2.30. At 3.00 Table Tennis (Norwich) Under English Closed Championships, (From BBC) The 1995-96 titles are laid on by winners, Desmond Douglas and Jill Hammerley; 3.45 Half-time results.**

**Radio Times Spectacular.† 1.00 pm**  
**Knot Your Place. 1.30 Sport on 2:**

- 4.00 **World of Sport (continued).** Wrestling: from Burnley, Lancs. Four single contests and a double tag match; 4.50 **Results.**
- 5.05 **News** from ITN.
- 5.15 **Happy Days.** A swimming course for Al as he befriends for a romantic reunion. Al Molinaro plays Al.
- 5.45 **Dick Turpin: Danger in the woodlands** for Dick and Swiftnick as they flee from their pursuers. With Richard O'Sullivan, Michael Danks.
- 6.15 **Four Languages: Comedy series,** set in a language school for multi-national students. With Barry Evans as the sore-tried teacher (7).
- 6.45 **3-2-1: Comedy quiz show.** The theme tonight is the 1940s. With Ted Rogers as MC.
- 7.45 **Hart to Hart: Why Jonathan Hart's swimming pool is a dangerous place to be.** With Robert Wagner, Stefanie Powers.
- 8.45 **News** from ITN, and sports round-up.

**Radio Times Spectacular**, 1.00 pm  
Know Your Place, 1.30 Sport on 2:  
Rugby, Football, Cricket, 8.00 Country  
at the Races, 9.00 The Great British  
Roadshow, 2.30 Big Band Special with  
the Radio Big Band, 8.00 Saturday  
Afternoon, 9.00 The Big Band in  
Vienna, 11.00 A Century of Music,  
Finland 1900-1939, 11.00 Pops  
Journey, 12.00 The Big Band You and  
the Night and the Music, 1.00

**Radio 1**  
5.00 AM to 8.00 AM 2.70 Peter  
8.00 Tony Blackburn, 10.00 Peter  
Powell, 12.00 My Top 10, 1.00  
The Big Band in Vienna, 1.30  
Waltz, 2.05 Pat Gambacchia, 4.00  
Waltz's Weekly 7.30 Rock on, 1.  
6.30 in Concert, 7.00 Close


**World Service**  
BBC World Service can be received in  
Western Europe in medium waves 1949 kHz,  
in short waves 19.49, 19.50, 19.51, 19.52,  
Newsworld, 7.00 World News, 7.58 News,  
8.00 World News, 7.15 From the Weekday, 7.30  
World News, 7.45 News, 8.00 World News,  
8.00 World News, 8.05 Reflections, 8.10  
Pondies' Choice, 8.30 Rhythm  
Round, 8.45 News, 9.00 News, 9.05  
Pondies' Choice, 9.15 The World  
Round, 9.30 News, 9.35 News, 9.40  
News, 9.45 News, 9.50 News, 9.55  
News, 10.30 Thirty Minute Theatre, 11.00  
World News, 11.05 News from Britain,  
11.15 News, 11.20 News, 11.25 News,  
11.30 News, 12.00 Radio News, 12.05  
News, 12.15 Anything Goes, 12.45  
Sports, 1.00 World News, 1.05  
Roundup, 1.10 World News, 1.09  
Commentary, 1.15 Network UK, 1.30 Opera  
Gallery, 1.45 Strictly International, 2.10 The  
Rock World News, 2.15 News from the  
World, 2.30 News, 2.35 Saturday  
Special, 2.40 News, 2.45 News, 2.50  
Saturday Special, 3.00 News Summary, 3.05  
Saturday Special, 3.10 World News, 3.09  
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**9.00** **Film:** *Lady of the House*: (1978) TV movie based on fact, about a former bordello keeper who became town mayor. Bryan Cranston plays Selly Stanford, the lady in question. Co-starring Armand Assante.

**10.50** **OTT.** Comedy and music show. With Canadian comedians McLean and McLean.

**11.40** **London news.** Followed by:—  
**Johnny Carson's Tonight Show.** With Pete Ustinov and Neil Carter.

**12.30** **Close:** with Elisabeth Lutyens.



**Neil Shiffert, from Ottawa, will be 52**

Newark, 12.30 P.M. of the World, 1.30  
 Bazar's Health-Booze, 2.50 Review of the  
 British Press, 3.45 Book Review, 4.30 MF  
 Review, 5.00 World News, 5.09 News About  
 Results, 5.15 Playhouse "I", 6.00  
 Newsweek, 5.45 Letter from America.

radio 1/2 VHF 88-91MHz. Radio 3  
 Free MF 720kHz/417m. 1.50 MF  
 and VHF 84.2 MHz. World Service

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## ULSTER

As London except: Starts 10.00am-  
 10.30 Singing, 5.00pm-5.05 Sports  
 Results, 5.15 News, 5.15-5.45 Mr  
 Martin, 7.45-8.45 Magazine, 10.20  
 Monte Carlo Show; David Essex,  
 11.40 News at Bedtime, followed by  
 Close-down.

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## TVS

and is very briskly directed by Christopher Yanning. It is about the destruction of beauty by the (unsuccessful serious writer) and the reconstitution of its elements into a gashy commercial machine (pulp fiction writer of phenomenal popularity). Martyr Read plays the teacher who is the victim of a non-person and Margaret Robertson is the chilling atomiser.

● Musical highlights on radio: a two-part BBC SO concert, live from Leeds (Radio 3, 7.30 and 8.15), made up of Mozart's Symphony No 34 and Bruckner's Symphony No 5 and, unusually, much of the repertoire is given the chance to heat Peter Clayton's defence of Salieri whose reputation was blackened by Peter Shaffer — albeit to memorable theatrical effect — in his play

10.00 City Brief, 9.005 Season Sport.  
10.00 Horn's Boomer, 10.30-12.15pm  
Mr. 73.5 15 News 8.20-8.45 Mr.  
Barney, 7.45-8.45 Magnam, 11.50  
Barney Miller, 8.20-8.45 Magnam,  
Closedown.

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**TYNE TELES**

As London except: Starts 9.00am  
Cartoon, 9.12 Sport, 9.40-10.30  
Thunderbirds, 12.13pm-12.15 News.  
7.15 News, 5.17-5.45 Mr. Martin, 7.45-  
8.45 Magnam, 11.50 House Calls,  
12.30-1.30. Three's Company, 12.30  
Closedown.

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**SCOTCH**

As London except: Starts 8.15am  
Wicky the Viking, 9.40-10.30.  
Thunderbirds, 5.15pm-8.45 Mr. Martin,  
1.20-1.40 Call, 11.55 Curling Lungs  
Supreme Curling Competition, 11.55  
Call, 12.35am Closedown.

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WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: \* STREBO

## ITV/LONDON

**05 Be Your Own Boss:** inventors and ideas men; **3.00** Cartoons; **9.45 God's Story: The Old Testament for children; 10.00 Morning Worship:** in the Gurdwara, Newcastle upon Tyne. **For** **11.00 Getting On:** Family cars for the elderly; **11.30 Stingray; 12.00 Weekend World:** in Brian Walden: The vexed question of Japanese exports to Britain. John Biffen, the Trade Secretary, is interviewed. **1.00 Police 5; 1.15** **Arson Time; 1.30 The Great Depression:** the story of the economic depression's better side. **2.00** **The Great Depression:** the persecutions of the Wall Street crash in 1929. **3.00** **Day:** how economic crisis engulfed Britain; **2.30** **London News, followed by The Big Match: Action** in three of yesterday's League games; **3.30** **Series:** Drama serial: final episode. The mystery the parents is solved at last.

[illegible]

- 00 **Cartoons.**
- 15 **Fire: The Master of Ballantyne (1953).** The Robert Louis Stevenson adventure yarn about the Jacobite rebellion. Starring Errol Flynn, Anthony Steel and Beatrice Campbell.
- 00 **Behind the Veil: First** in new series about women and religion. Tonight: women and premarital cohabitation, concentrating on the US experience. 6.30. News.
- 40 **Sunday Best: Light-hearted religious** programmes. With Frank Topping, Donald Swann and Marian Davies.
- 15 **The Fall Guy: Drama series** about a Hollywood stuntman who earns extra cash as a bounty hunter. With Lee Majors and a glider fight.
- 15 **A Feline Romance: Something happens** that Helen and Phil have good cause to celebrate. But for Laura and Miffie, this is no time for rejoicing. With Judi Dench, Michael Williams, Susan Penhaligon and Richard

The Sacred James Joyce Show, 2.30 Greenwich  
 10.15 The New York Philharmonic, 10.30 Radio  
 10.35 Concert Hall, 2.40 Greenwich  
 4.05 Contemporary, 4.15 Fresh Cur-  
 ren Concert, 4.35 Financial Review  
 AS World News, 5.05 Morning Mirror, 5.05 World  
 News, 5.05 Contemporary, 5.15 Lento.  
 10.15 The Treasury's Year, 10.20 World  
 News, 10.25 Science in Action, 10.40  
 World News, 10.45 The Treasury's Year, 10.55  
 News, 11.05 Contemporary, 11.15 Letter from  
 Paris, 11.30 Society Instrumental, 12.00  
 World News, 12.05 The Treasury's Year, 12.15  
 Radio News, 12.30 Religious Service, 12.40  
 The Ages of Man, 1.45 Short  
 Stories, 1.50 The Treasury's Year, 1.55 The  
 British Press, 2.15 Twentieth Century Fala-  
 stine, 2.20 The Treasury's Year, 2.25 World  
 News, 3.05 News about Britain, 3.15 The  
 Treasury's Year, 3.20 Anything Goes, 4.00  
 World News, 5.05 The Verdict of Thomas  
 More.

00 **Airliner.** Jack Ruskin (Roy Marsden) is still flying illegally. Peter Whitney (Richard Henry) loses his sense of orientation while rescuing the pilot. "Alice." And Ruskin's airline could be next in the list as a Ministry of Aviation inspector closes down a number of independent businesses in the area.

00 **Wood and Walters.** Comedy and music show, starring Victoria Wood and Julia Walters. Highlights from seven previous editions; including the groupies sketch.

30 **The South Bank Show:** A film about Jerry Luccer and Mike Stoller, the men behind many of our successful rock and roll songs of the fifties and sixties. They are composers and record producers, and have had a remarkable success working with such acts as Elvis Presley, The Beatles, The Rolling Stones and The Drifters.

London news headlines. They are followed by:—

Star Parade: the guests include Manhattan Transfer.

Close: with Elisabeth Lutyens.

**Major Depression, 4.00 Behind the Net: Female Rites, 4.00 Border Diary, 15-6.30 Film: Italian Job (Michael Caine, Noel Coward) 10.00 British cash to raise four million dollars for gold is organized from inside prison, 7.15-8.15 Hart to Hart, 11.30 redsun.**

**HTV**

**London escape: Stars & Gases** same Street, 9.45-10.00 God's eye, 11.30-12.00 Be Your Own man, 12.00 University Challenge, 1.00-1.30 The 1000 Year Old Farming Diary, 2.00-2.30 Spread or Wings, 4.00 Behind the Veil: male Filles, 4.30-5.00 Film: Troops of the Desert, 5.00-5.30 The Desert Matchman, Peter Fafard, 5.30-6.00 The 1944 landing at Anzio are accompanied by a veteran war correspondent, 6.00-6.30 Hart to Hart, 30.00 Picante, 12.00 Copsdown.

**HTV CYMRU/WALES**

**HTV West** except: 1.30pm West

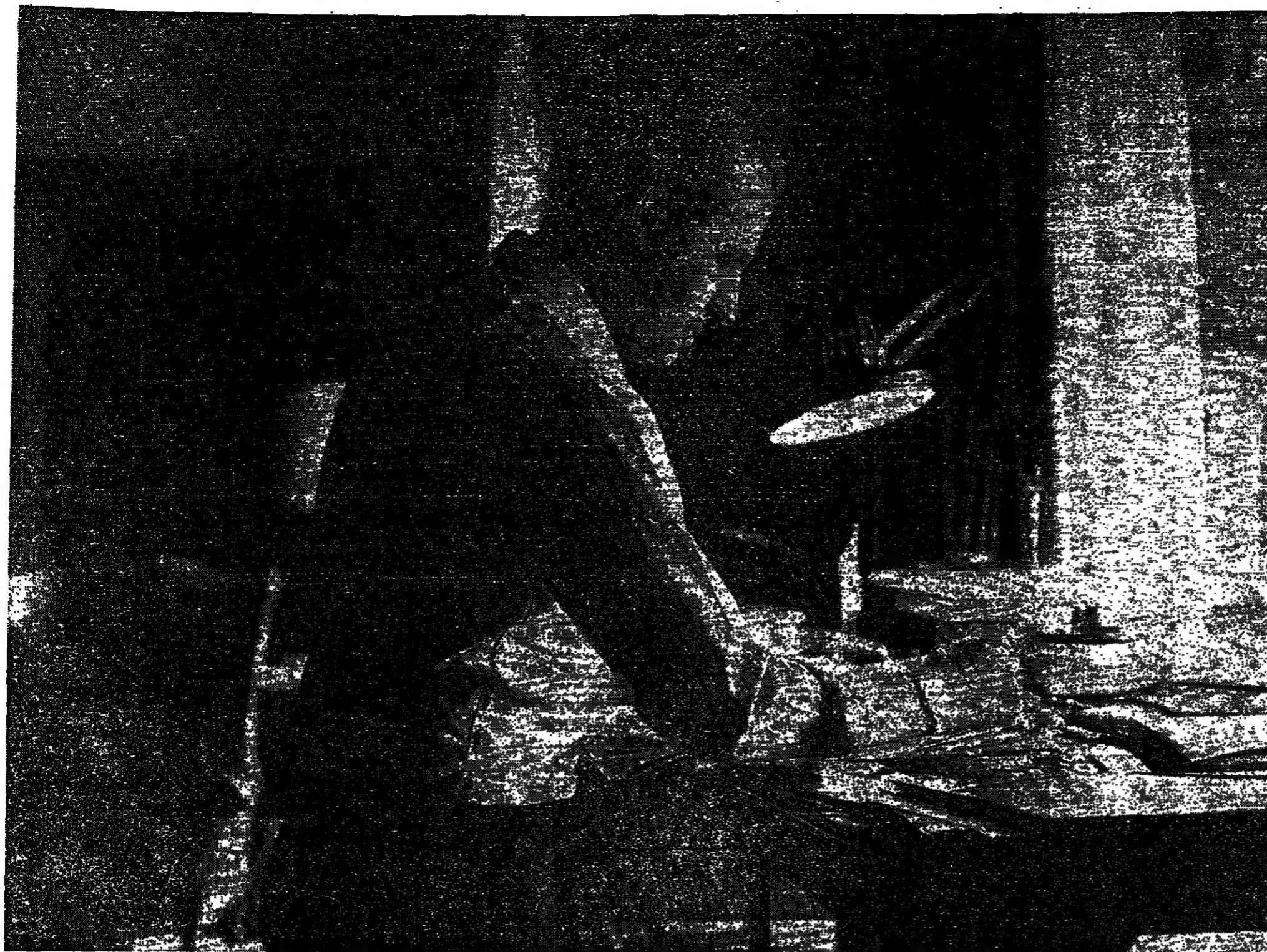
The struggle to survive has dissipated Rutkin's boyish bonhomie and the ice-cold slash of Burnside's steel has replaced it. Poity hemingly continues to impress. Rutkin's woe-man, it is his manliness to her no-nonsense attitude that what goes on at ground level is often more believable than what goes on in the clouds.

● Radio highlight: The first broadcast of *Delius's* one-act opera **MARGOT LA ROUGE** (Radio-3, 2.00), written in 1902 but not performed until last year. This is a recording of that historic occasion. Lois McDonald sings the title role, and Norman De-Mar conducts the BBC Concert Orchestra.

with guest Brooks Shields. 3.30  
Lysyad Hancock. 4.00-4.30 Barriers.

**GRANADA**

London except: Starts 9.00am  
Dinner... of Samos. 9.45-10.00  
His Story. 10.00-10.30  
11.25 Ask Kaa Kaa. 11.30-  
10 Down to Earth. 1.00pm  
University Challenge. 1.30 240 Robert.  
9.30 Match Time. 4.00 Behind  
The Women's Rules. 4.20-5.30  
Harry Black and the Tiger  
(wart Granger). Big game hunter.  
the handicap of an artificial leg.  
The lastest Black men a man-aging  
7.15-8.15 Hart to Hart. 11.30  
ants and Teenagers. 12.00  
on. 12.30am Cloedown.



The shirt-sleeved monarch: Picture of solkary man, short-sleeved and relaxed, at work on his papers. But armed secret service men lurk in the woodwork. We all like to look relaxed and shirt-sleeved, but this man has to work harder at it than most of us (Philip Howard writes). He is His Catholic Majesty King Juan Carlos I de Bourbon y Bourbon of all the Spaniards, Captain-General of the Armed Forces, heir of the Catholic monarchs

Ferdinand and Isabella, Order of the Golden Fleece, the fruit of pedigrees and titles going back to the dawn of the Middle Ages, with a list of honours as long as the face of the knight of the sorrowful countenance. You normally see him unrelaxed, in uniform, and on constitutional parade. He is the personification of national sovereignty of the youngest and most volatile democracy in Europe, and he exercises more political power than

any other European monarch. The future of Spain depends to a large extent upon his decisions. So far, touch-wood, since he was put on six years ago, he has proved most royally.

This picture of the king was taken by Juan Goyanes, a Hungarian, who has been court photographer to the Palacio de la Zarzuela in Madrid for the past 25 years.

## Michael Hamlyn in New York

### Mafia gets mixed up in fishy business

Anyone who eats fresh fish in New York—and it is a city which prides itself on the quality of its seafood—is paying a hidden tax to the Mafia.

All fresh fish comes to New Yorkers via the Fulton fish market on the Lower East Side, the second biggest fish market in the world (second to the new Billingsgate in London). And the market is under total domination of the organized crime families who exact tribute of tens of thousands of dollars each week, and who maintain their domination in traditionally violent ways.

The merchandising and distribution of fish is not, of course, the only way in which the mob feeds off the thriving city; but detailed documents just produced in court here show that the control of this industry is a microcosm, a classic example of how the Mafia works.

The documents were prepared for the sentencing of the man who has been the godfather of the market, Carmine Romano, and his brother Peter. They were both convicted of what is known here as *racetracking*, that is, using the grade union of which they were successively a local secretary/treasurer for organized extortion through protection rackets, and the misuse of welfare and pension funds.

The court documents drawn up by federal prosecuting counsel say that those who work at the market feel they live under two governments—one in Washington and one on the street... businessmen in the Fulton fish market believe the government of the streets, the Mafia, is the more powerful of the two.

The market works while most of the rest of New York sleeps. At around midnight each night the lorries bearing the day's catch arrive from the fishing ports of Massachusetts, Maine, Virginia or the Carolinas.

The lorries may not be

mob decreed—be unloaded by anyone other than mob-run companies allocated to carry the fish. The unloading gangs charge a dollar a crate, which is more than twice as much as is charged at any other fish market in the country.

Fish retailers, restaurants and hospital caterers, who buy at the market, pay a Mafia tax. They may not have their own lorries but must use the mob-controlled labourers. And though the streets around at night are free of parking restrictions they may not park there even briefly to pick up their wares without paying a \$5 parking charge.

Those who don't pay have their windows smashed or their cars slashed, Mr. Walker said.

Last week, Carmine Romano, a member of the Genovese crime family who reported to Thomas "Crazy" Tom Costello, was sentenced to 12 years' jail and a \$20,000 fine. His brother Peter, who was a lesser figure, but designated to succeed him, was given 18 months' sentence which was suspended.

The power of the mob has not been broken; a third brother, Vincent Romano, is poised to take over the boss's role. The difficulty of obtaining convictions in the Fulton market is well illustrated by a case where an unloading company owner was convicted of perjury.

Five days later a witness whose testimony had been compelled was walking to work through the centre of the market. He was Anthony D'Amilli, aged 62. As he reached the union offices two men, wearing ski-masks shot him twice. As he lay bleeding on the ground in full view of the rest of the market workers they shot him a further three times.

## THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

### Today's events

#### New exhibitions

Paintings of Ingleborough, Wharfedale, Pen-y-ghent, and area by P. T. Fulcrakerley, Lancaster

City Council Museum, Market Square, Lancaster; Mon to Sat, 10 to 5; (from today until March 20).

Mosley Collection of Birds, Derby Museums and Art Gallery, The Strand, Derby; Tues to Fri 10 to 6; Sat 10 to 5; (from today until March 23).

### Solution of Puzzle No. 15,755

Across: 1. MAYFAIR; 2. SUMMER; 3. LONDON; 4. BIRMINGHAM; 5. MANCHESTER; 6. GLASGOW; 7. EDINBURGH; 8. DUBLIN; 9. LIVERPOOL; 10. BIRMINGHAM; 11. MANCHESTER; 12. GLASGOW; 13. EDINBURGH; 14. DUBLIN; 15. LIVERPOOL; 16. BIRMINGHAM; 17. MANCHESTER; 18. GLASGOW; 19. EDINBURGH; 20. DUBLIN; 21. LIVERPOOL; 22. BIRMINGHAM; 23. MANCHESTER; 24. GLASGOW; 25. EDINBURGH; 26. DUBLIN; 27. LIVERPOOL; 28. BIRMINGHAM; 29. MANCHESTER; 30. GLASGOW; 31. EDINBURGH; 32. DUBLIN; 33. LIVERPOOL; 34. BIRMINGHAM; 35. MANCHESTER; 36. GLASGOW; 37. EDINBURGH; 38. DUBLIN; 39. LIVERPOOL; 40. BIRMINGHAM; 41. MANCHESTER; 42. GLASGOW; 43. EDINBURGH; 44. DUBLIN; 45. LIVERPOOL; 46. BIRMINGHAM; 47. MANCHESTER; 48. GLASGOW; 49. EDINBURGH; 50. DUBLIN; 51. LIVERPOOL; 52. BIRMINGHAM; 53. MANCHESTER; 54. GLASGOW; 55. EDINBURGH; 56. DUBLIN; 57. LIVERPOOL; 58. BIRMINGHAM; 59. MANCHESTER; 60. GLASGOW; 61. EDINBURGH; 62. DUBLIN; 63. LIVERPOOL; 64. BIRMINGHAM; 65. MANCHESTER; 66. GLASGOW; 67. EDINBURGH; 68. DUBLIN; 69. LIVERPOOL; 70. 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BIRMINGHAM; 1031. MANCHESTER; 1032. GLASGOW; 1033. EDINBURGH; 1034. DUBLIN; 1035. LIVERPOOL; 1036. BIRMINGHAM; 1037. MANCHESTER; 1038. GLASGOW; 1039. EDINBURGH; 1040. DUBLIN; 1041. LIVERPOOL; 1042. BIRMINGHAM; 1043. MANCHESTER; 1044. GLASGOW; 1045. EDINBURGH; 1046. DUBLIN; 1047. LIVERPOOL; 1048. BIRMINGHAM; 1049. MANCHESTER; 1050. GLASGOW; 1051. EDINBURGH; 1052. DUBLIN; 1053. LIVERPOOL; 1054. BIRMINGHAM; 1055. MANCHESTER; 1056. GLASGOW; 1057. EDINBURGH; 1058. DUBLIN; 1059. LIVERPOOL; 1060. BIRMINGHAM; 1061. MANCHESTER; 1062. GLASGOW; 1063. EDINBURGH; 1064. DUBLIN; 1065. LIVERPOOL; 1066. BIRMINGHAM; 1067. MANCHESTER; 1068. GLASGOW; 1069